

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 NOVEMBER 1980

Iran Domestic Affairs

Raja'i Interview--In an interview with a Tehran radio correspondent, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i defended his choices for Cabinet ministers from charges by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and others that they lack "expertise" and knowledge in their appointed fields. Declaring that a revolutionary government must put "ideology before expertise," Raja'i asserted "expertise must be harnessed" and controlled by ideology because "ideology should dominate the basic issues" in a revolutionary society. Asked about his choice of ministers to head the foreign affairs, finance, commerce and education and training ministries, Raja'i noted he had submitted names to the president but that the latter has failed to respond. Raja'i said Bani-Sadr's complaints about the Cabinet's passing resolutions and making laws without submitting them to him or the Majlis are ill founded because he has in fact received all Cabinet resolutions as stipulated in the constitution.

Bani-Sadr Speech--In a speech at a Tehran mosque on 20 November--reported by AFP but not monitored from Tehran media--Bani-Sadr returned to the theme of individual liberty that he had raised in his speech to a mass rally on 19 November. According to AFP, he declared that "we are losing the freedom to speak out, a freedom that has already suffered several severe blows." He claimed that certain newspapers are being used to mount attacks on rivals and that the Voice and Vision, Iran's radio and television, has not "accepted free discussion" as a means of solving problems. He denounced censorship, illegal imprisonment and growing intolerance in Iran, saying the "fear of these clubs is as bad as fear of the SAVAK." Bani-Sadr revealed that Iran and Iraq had been negotiating various border questions just before the Gulf war began and said it was Iraq that had "slammed the door" on any possible settlement. Admitting "grave economic difficulties," he said Iran is "locked in total war outside and within."

Newspaper Guidelines--Following an earlier Tehran radio report that the Ayatollah Khomeyni appointed a supervisor for KEYHAN, the radio reported that the Supreme Defense Council Publicity Headquarters met with the editors of various newspapers to discuss newspaper content and announced it will take "necessary action" against newspapers that deviate from guidelines approved at the meeting. Warning that "certain people" are trying to "create division and pessimism," the Publicity Headquarters said the "country must prosecute individuals who...cause pessimism among the valiant and Muslim Iranian nation."

Wartime Court in Ramhormoz--Ahvaz radio announced that a "special wartime court" headed by 'Ali Mortazavi, a representative of Ayatollah Khomeini, has been set up in Ramhormoz due to "the present sensitive situation and the activities of counterrevolutionaries and the enemy's fifth column."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Bani-Sadr, Raja'i Meet Palme--Commenting on his just concluded talks with UN envoy Olof Palme, who is in Tehran to discuss ways of ending the Gulf war, Prime Minister Raja'i told a Tehran radio correspondent that Iraq must first admit its "act of aggression" in invading Iran and withdraw its troops before Iran can consider any cease-fire. He added no problem can be solved just "by sitting around a table." In a separate meeting with Palme, President Bani-Sadr reiterated the same points, stressing that Iran cannot consider any peace proposal until Iraqi forces withdraw, Tehran radio reported.

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported continued heavy fighting around Susangerd, Ahvaz and Abadan with Iranian forces again moving across the Bahmanshir River to attack Iraqi positions. The radio said Iranian forces recaptured Khvornuj and continued to advance on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Sumar fronts. The Iranian Air Force was active again, according to an armed forces communique carried by Tehran radio, striking at enemy armor and troop concentrations around Abadan. An Iraqi General Command communique, reported by INA, said Iraqi helicopters hit Iranian targets around Susangerd.

#### Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Summit--PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told UAE newspapers that the PLO has "not requested the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to approve the postponement of the summit conference." In a statement reported by QNA, 'Arafat noted that the Syrian-Palestinian working paper submitted to the seven-member Arab committee meeting in Amman enjoyed "unanimous approval." AFP reported, however, that Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Nasir Qadour confirmed that Syria will not attend the summit and continues to insist on its postponement "until there is an improvement in the atmosphere currently prevailing in the Arab world." Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam announced, according to Damascus radio, that the Syrian decision to participate would depend on the outcome of the Arab foreign ministers meeting, which, he said, should settle basic points on the summit's agenda. In any case, Khaddam said, President Hafiz al-Asad would not participate in the summit before the "purification of the Arab atmosphere." AFP reported Khaddam as saying Syria wants to see the reestablishment of "normal relations among the Arab countries" before participating in a summit session.

Amman radio announced that the Arab foreign ministers meeting to "pave the way for the convocation of the 11th Arab summit" begins in Amman on 21 November and that the foreign ministers of Syria, Algeria and the PDRY will attend as well as the chief of the PLO Political Department. INA reported that the agenda of the foreign ministers conference will include a draft program covering "joint Arab action by which to confront the Zionist enemy" and a strategy of joint economic action.

Syrian-Jordanian Relations--In an interview with Damascus television, a former Jordanian Government official said there are "close links" between the command of the Muslim Brotherhood organization and King Husayn of Jordan. The official, Muhammad Ziyad Silkah, said he had accompanied Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran on an unspecified date to a Muslim Brotherhood training camp near Ajlun in Jordan whose purpose was, according to Badran, "to change the regime in Syria." Damascus radio said the interview proved the extent of the Jordanian Government's involvement in "the killings and sabotage" carried out by agents inside Syria.

#### Afghanistan

AFP, citing Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad, reported that after a 5-day campaign to dislodge Muslim insurgents from positions in the Panjshir valley north of Kabul, Soviet troops were forced to retreat on 18 November. Kabul radio reported on 20 November that a large number of "party activists, Sarandey and patriots from Kabul Province" left for the provinces to "eliminate the last bastions of the enemies of the Saur Revolution." The radio said Minister of Communications Aslam Watanjar made a speech to a meeting to mark their departure.

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## SOVIET BORDER TALKS TEAM DEPARTS FOR HOME

LD201714 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] The USSR delegation headed by (Nur Shakhin Zaitin) which had participated in the 21st round of border talks between the DRA and the USSR, left for home this afternoon. At Kabul International Airport, Dr Bahwal Derwish, general director of geology and cartography, saw the delegation off.

## 'ABDOL QADER ATTENDS KABUL WOMEN'S MEETING

LD202014 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] As part of the process of organizing women in the defense of the revolution and the people, the first meeting of the women's representatives of the Kabul City Council was held today under the leadership of the Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan in the auditorium of Amani school.

Present at this meeting was Maj Gen 'Abdol Qader, member of the PDPA Central Committee and member of the Presidium of the Revolution Council, and some members of the PDPA Central Committee, members of the Revolution Council and members of the Council of Ministers.

The resolution of the women's representatives of the Kabul City Council, which was read at today's conference, explains the value and aims of such conferences. It states that in such gatherings, important ways to defend the gains of the revolution and to enhance the role of women are sought, particularly after the visit by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, at the head of a high-ranking party and government delegation, to the friendly and brother country of the USSR.

The resolution adds: We the participant representatives in the course of our talks will bear in mind the great duties that the PDPA Central Committee Fourth Plenum assigned to party comrades and other patriotic elements. We shall begin our struggle against the enemies of the Saur Revolution and shall develop the militant ranks of the country's women. The meeting ended with the adoption of a resolution by the women's representatives of the Kabul City Council.

## KABUL REPORTS NEW SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENTS

LD192258 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] At the proposal of the Supreme Court and with the approval of the chairman of the Revolution Council Presidium, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, the following appointments have been made in branches of the Supreme Court:

(Mer Zenolabedin) as chief judge of the Paktia provincial court; (Mohammad Yusof) as grade one, deputy chief judge of the Kabul provincial court; (Najibolla Qaderi) as the chief judge of the Kandahar provincial court; (Mohammad Taleb) as grade two member of the inspection department; (Abdol Wahed Farahi) as grade two member of the research and statistics department; (Shah Wali) as a chief judge of the Faryab provincial court; (Hafizulla Hafez) as chief judge of the Konar provincial court; (Lalodin) as chief judge of the Badghis provincial court; ('Abdol Hamid Balochi) as chief judge of the Helmand provincial court; (Ghulam Hosayn Azati) as grade two member of the inspection department; (Mohammad Hafiz) as grade two member of the judicial research and statistic department; and (Mir Mohammad Hosayn Hosayni) as grade two member of the judicial research and statistics department.

Also appointed were:

('Abdol Hai) as grade two member of the inspection department, (Mohammad-ulla Modale) as chief judge of the Takhar provincial court; (Mohammad Kamal Masrur) as chief judge of the traffic division of Kabul Province; (Jadran) as chief judge of the criminal division of Kabul Province; ('Abdolla Shagi) as grade three member of the inspection department; (Khoda Dada) as chief judge of the family court of Kabul Province; (Taj Mohammad Aminzoy) as grade two member of the inspection department; (Nazar Mohammad) as chief judge of the Paktia provincial court; (Sarajodin) as chief judge of the commercial division of Kabul provincial court; (Mehrab Ali) as chief judge of the Ghown provincial court; ('Abdol Basir Asyan) as chief judge of the public rights division of Kabul provincial court; (Ali Ahmad Kazemi) as the judge of the primary criminal court of Kabul Province; (Mohammed Joma Aziz) as chief judge of the Oruzgan provincial court, (Fazal Ahmad) as chief judge of the public rights and civil division of Kabul provincial court; (Mohammad Hanif) as chief judge of the Baghlan provincial court; ('Abdol Wahed Nasib) as chief judge of the civil servants court; and ('Abdol Ghafur) as chief judge of the Farah provincial court.

The above 29 appointments are non-party appointments.

#### DEPUTY AGRICULTURE MINISTER OPENS LAND REFORM SEMINAR

LD192006 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] The seminar investigating the second phase of the land reform was opened today at the headquarters of the Land Reform Office at the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform. Forty members of the preliminary investigatory team were present. The seminar was opened by the deputy minister of agriculture and land reform, Dr 'Abdol Ghafar Watanpal.

The seminar, which is to continue for 4 days, will discuss the second phase of land reform and other important issues. Under review and investigation are those preliminary works which were assigned by the Office of Land Reform during the second phase.

#### TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CSSR

LD171440 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Nov 80

[Text] The technical cooperation contract regarding the sending of experts to the Ministry of Public Works, under the grant-in-aid program of the Socialist Government of Czechoslovakia, was signed today at the headquarters of the Ministry of Public Works.

According to this contract, the Czech experts will work in the Ministry of Public Works for 3 years. Their salaries and expenses will be paid by the Government of Czechoslovakia. The contract was signed on behalf of the Ministry of Public Works by the director of planning and research, and on behalf of the Government of Czechoslovakia by the representative of the Technical Cooperation Institute of Czechoslovakia. Engineer Hassan 'Ali Taher, deputy minister of the Ministry of Public Works and (Dedouk Phon), economic adviser at the Czechoslovak Embassy in Kabul, were present.

#### KABUL CITIZENS, OFFICIALS, OBSERVE 'ASHURA CEREMONIES 17 NOV

GF181845 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 18 Nov 80

[Excerpts] Yesterday was the 9th of Muharram and 'Ashura day. Our religious countrymen held meetings to mark the day and prayed for the soul of martyred Imam Hoseyn and his companions.

BAKHTAR reports that 'Abdorrashid Aryan, deputy prime minister and attorney general; Dr Syed Anwar Shah, deputy minister of health; and Dr Mohammad Habibi, the governor of Kabul, attended the prayer meeting in Kabul's Imam Bara. [Shi'ite mourning place]. They prayed for the soul of the exalted, martyred Imam Hoseyn and his companions.

People attending these meetings in Kabul prayed for the annihilation of counterrevolutionaries and the success of the Afghan revolution. Newspapers, magazines and radio and television stations carried special programs on the occasion.

#### KABUL, AFP REPORT OFFENSIVES AGAINST PROVINCIAL PUBLIC GROUPS

##### Government Forces to the Front

LD201850 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] A large number of party activists, Sarandoy and patriots from Kabul Province today and on 18 November voluntarily left for the provinces to eliminate the last bastions of the enemies of the Saur Revolution. In a meeting that was held on 18 November at the Kabul provincial seat to mark the departure of these patriots, Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee, member of the Presidium of the Revolution Council and the minister of communications, pointed out in a speech to the heroic and brave youths of the country those important duties and obligations which have been assigned to them in the second stage of development of the Saur revolution.

Watanjar wished the youths further success in the elimination of the counterrevolutionaries and the enemies of the country. At the end of the meeting, one of the youths spoke on behalf of the party activists and expressed his support and that of his colleagues in the resolute struggle against the counterrevolutionary elements, those servants and spies of imperialism.

A BAKHTAR correspondent in a similar report notes that a number of party activists, Sarandoy and groups for the defense of the revolution left today for the provinces in order to eliminate counterrevolutionary elements. At the farewell ceremony for these militant youths, the provincial secretary and his deputy and the governor of Kabul wished them much success in the total elimination of the enemies of the country and reminded the patriotic youths of their revolutionary duties.

Afterwards, on behalf of the youths, one of them expressed his resolve and that of his colleagues to make total and all-round sacrifice for the realization of the gains of the Saur Revolution and for the defense of the humanitarian aims of the revolution.

##### Badakhshan Rebels 'Crushed'

LD201845 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] A large gang of counterrevolutionary elements, those mercenaries of U.S. imperialism, who were disrupting the peaceful life of the people of Shahmorad Village of Baharak subdistrict of Badakhshan Province, was crushed recently by the security authorities and party activists with the help of the noble and toiling people. A spokesman for the security authority of Baharak subdistrict of Badakhshan Province said: Various types of U.S. and Chinese arms were seized from these murderers.

##### Parvan Province Success

LD201844 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] A band of counterrevolutionary elements and destructive bandits who were disturbing the peaceful life of the noble people of Sanjet Dra Village in Parvan Province was recently crushed very severely by the militants of the armed forces, police and party activists with the help of the revolution defense groups. A great number of these terrorists was captured after an armed clash.

A spokesman for Parvan Province said: Various kinds of U.S., Chinese and Pakistani arms, a large quantity of ammunition, missile-launchers and other explosives, as well as incriminating documents showing their links with abroad, were seized from these elements linked with reaction and imperialism.

The spokesman said that these detainees have been handed over to the relevant authorities for further interrogation. The activity of the armed forces, police, party activists and the revolution defense groups as well as of the noble people is continuing in order to crush the terrorists.

AFP: Soviet-Government Offensive

BK200833 Hong Kong AFP in English 0808 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] New Delhi, 20 Nov (AFP)--Afghan Government forces aided by Soviet air strength have started a pre-winter offensive against Afghan rebels in provinces adjoining the Afghan capital, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The offensive, launched on Sunday, covers the provinces of Kabul, Parvan, Ghazni, Nangarhar and Vardak, the sources said quoting reports received from the Afghan capital. Kabul residents saw dozens of Soviet helicopter gunships and bomber aircraft taking off from Kabul International Airport and witnessed unusually hectic military activities in Afghan Army garrisons. (Kabul radio had announced on Saturday that the Afghan Army and the Air Force would begin joint maneuvers from Sunday in Kabul, Parvan, Ghazni and Nangarhar Provinces. The maneuvers were aimed at testing and checking the interactions of the different Afghan Army units, the radio said).

The diplomatic sources here recalled the government announcement and said that it was a prelude to the pre-winter offensive in the troubled provinces. The sources here, however, could not say if the offensive had resulted in any serious fighting between the rebels and the government troops. Afghan Government troops have also moved into Vardak province, west of Kabul. The province was not listed in the original government announcement of army maneuvers.

Quoting generally reliable sources, the informants here said that Soviet troops had also launched an attack on the Panjashir valley, about 160 kms (100 miles) north of Kabul on Tuesday. This is the fourth time that the Soviet troops have attempted to enter the valley, which is considered a rebel stronghold and strategically important. Last September, the Soviets launched a major attack, but later withdrew following stiff resistance from the rebels.

The sources could not confirm earlier reports of heavy fighting in Herat and Kandahar Provinces. There was, however, no independent confirmation of the new Soviet offensive either from the Indian Foreign Ministry or from Third World diplomatic sources here. Area experts close to the Indian Foreign Ministry maintain that the Afghan Government has postponed any major offensive against the rebels till March end next year. The experts interpret the army maneuvers around Kabul as a possible attempt by the Soviets to flush out rebels from in and around Kabul before winter makes it difficult for any military action.

AFP: Soviet Drive Near Kabul

BK201448 Hong Kong AFP in English 1427 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] Islamabad, 20 Nov (AFP)--Soviet troops were forced to retreat on Tuesday [18 November] after launching a major campaign to dislodge Moslem insurgents from strong positions in the mountainous Panjashir valley north of Kabul, western diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources had no details on the operation, saying only that it was reported to have lasted 5 days. The Soviets mounted three earlier attempts to gain control of the valley. The last ran for 3 weeks in September and caused heavy casualties on both sides.

Western diplomats believe that the Panjashir debacle and manoeuvres that radio Kabul announced on November 15 in Parvan Province were part of a drive against the insurgents. They reported that dozens of Soviet and Afghan Government helicopters and planes took off on operation on November 16 while transport traffic from the Soviet Union was sharply stepped up.

Two Kabul sources reported that the operations reached into Wardak district south of the capital, with house to house searches to sift out Mojahedin but also young men liable for armed service. An insurgent camp was reportedly bombed in the area.

Meanwhile, diplomats reported that tension was building up in Kabul with numerous reports of acts of banditry by Soviet soldiers. Sources the diplomats described as reliable said that Soviet troops recently murdered an Afghan official, his wife and two daughters in their own home. One report said that the official managed to kill one of his aggressors. In the Kabul suburb of Puli Sharki, Afghan workers reported seeing a dozen bodies hung on a fence in a village recently singled out by the authorities. Village defenders apparently clashed for 7 hours with government forces. Other reports said that bus drivers had called a strike after Soviet soldiers fired on a bus near Salang Pass, on the route to the Soviet Union, killing the driver and three passengers.

#### RESISTANCE ORGANIZATION DENOUNCES EXILE GROUP VISITING UN

OW142345 Paris AFP in English 2331 GMT 14 Nov 80

[Text] Islamabad, 14 Nov (AFP)--The Afghan resistance group Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan has denounced a group of exiled Afghan officials and diplomats currently in the United States trying to gain support for Afghan rebels as unrepresentative of the cause.

Professor 'Abd ar-Rasul Sayyaf, president of the Peshawar (Pakistan)-based movement, in a telegram to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said the group of Afghan bureaucrats who defected recently had no right to speak on behalf of those who were giving their "blood and sweat for the liberation of their country." He also protested against the group's presence at the UN.

The five-member panel arrived in New York Wednesday to muster support for Afghan freedom fighters. It reportedly failed in attempts to take part in the UN Assembly debate on Afghanistan and was not trying to contact a representative of U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan.

The group told newsmen at the UN that its members would meet privately with delegates to lobby support for the "Afghan cause". Professor Sayyaf told Mr Waldheim that if the UN was really interested in knowing the facts about Afghanistan it should have invited those Afghans "who are giving blood for the liberation of their country."

The true representatives were those Afghans who were practically engaged in the struggle against Soviet domination and communist occupation, he added, "only these people could give the harrowing tales of Soviet occupation forces." He said that because they had little knowledge of the Moslem resistance movement, the group of defectors and former diplomats could not be considered genuine representatives of Afghan freedom fighters.

## ZIAUR RAHMAN GREETZ ZIAUL HAQ WHILE FLYING OVER PAKISTAN

BK111556 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Nov 80

[Text] Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman sent a message of good wishes to President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq while flying over Pakistani territory on his way back home from Rabat. In his message, he prayed for the continued progress, prosperity and peace of the brotherly people of Pakistan.

## ZIAUR RAHMAN RETURNS FROM VISIT TO MOROCCO, GUINEA

BK101716 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 10 Nov 80

[Excerpt] President Zia returned to Dacca this evening after a 5-day visit to Morocco and Guinea.

## BRIEFS

NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR--The ambassador designate of the Netherlands, Mr Sinninghe Damste, presented his letter of credence to President Ziaur Rahman in Dacca on 29 October at Bangabhaban, reports RSS. [Excerpt] [Dacca the Bangladesh OBSERVER in English 30 Oct 80 P 1 BK]

DPRK TRADE PROTOCOL--Bangladesh and North Korea have signed a trade protocol. The Bangladesh trade delegation led by the commerce secretary left Pyongyang yesterday [31 October] after signing the protocol. [Text] [Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Nov 80 BK]

## BOMBAY PAPER ADDRESSES U.S. RELATIONS UNDER NEW PRESIDENT

BK151444 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Nov 80 p 1

[By Subhas Chakravarti]

[Text] New Delhi, 11 Nov--The prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, in a swift initiative to open meaningful dialogue with the U.S. president-elect, Mr Ronald Reagan, and his advisers, is sending Mr B.K. Nehru as her special envoy to Washington.

A former ambassador to the United States and an astute diplomat, Mr Nehru is due to have long-ranging discussions with Mr Reagan. Mrs Gandhi's decision, which is remarkable for its promptness, shorn of conventional diplomatic protocol, is perhaps a measure of her desire to accord high priority to India's relations with the incoming administration on Capitol Hill.

Apart from the problem of continued supply of enriched uranium for Tarapore, there is no major bilateral outstanding issues between the two countries. In fact, only recently India made for the first time in many years some military purchases in the United States.

The quality of the relations between the two countries will, therefore, largely depend on whether they will be able to reach an understanding in wide issues affecting the region.

For India, it is a matter of serious concern that the incoming administration does not revert to the policies of the previous Republican administration. The Eisenhower administration, it may be recalled, extended military assistance to Pakistan in the latter's bid to establish military parity with India. The Nixon administration on its own acknowledged its tilt towards Pakistan during the Bangladesh war in 1971.

The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the war between Iran and Iraq are two clear major issues on which Mr Nehru would like to sound [out] Mr Reagan and his advisers. India's position on Afghanistan is crystal clear. It favours withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan following a political settlement involving Afghanistan's neighbours in the first instance.

India is strictly neutral in the war between Iran and Iraq and would not like either of the superpowers to intervene directly or indirectly.

Whatever India's problems with the Carter Administration might have been, Washington in recent years has not done anything to deny this country the pre-eminent position which India naturally occupies in South Asia by virtue of its size and economic and military strength.

New Delhi would naturally like the new administration to adhere to this policy and also recognise the contribution India could make to ensure peace and stability not only in South Asia, but also on the whole region.

Mrs Gandhi is known not to have taken by surprise by Mr Reagan's decisive victory in the election. For more than a month before the election, the prime minister had indicated to her close advisers that Mr Reagan would make it.

In her message to Mr Reagan on his election victory, Mrs Gandhi said: "Our two countries share common traditions of struggle for independence, dedication to democratic ideals and a spirit of tolerance and understanding.

"We sincerely hope that our bilateral relations will continue to deepen and diversify for the mutual benefit of our two peoples and objectives of peace and security for the world."

Apart from according an appropriate level of importance to India's relations with the United States in uncertain global developments, India is keen on catching up with the technological advancement. In its present reckoning India's option should remain open.

## DAILY VIEWS IMPLICATIONS OF UPCOMING BREZHNEV VISIT

BK'91430 Madras HINDU in English 10 Nov 80 p 1

[By G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, 9 Nov--The four-day visit of the Soviet president, Mr Brezhnev, to Delhi from December 8 is assuming considerable importance in the new cold war atmosphere prevailing in the region, which is leading in turn to a quiet reappraisal of India's relationship with the two superpower systems.

A lot of preparatory work is being done by both sides for this visit, since the Soviet president's talks with the prime minister are going to cover many vital issues affecting peace and stability in and around the sub-continent.

The Indo-Soviet relations remain close and cordial in the bilateral sphere, despite their differing perceptions of the causes and consequences of the renewed tensions in the region.

The Soviet leader, who will be meeting Mrs Gandhi after four and a half years, will certainly utilise this visit to assess her current attitudes, while making an earnest bid to convince her about the validity of Moscow's policies and actions.

The Soviet Union has, no doubt, appreciated the Indian contention that Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan cannot be viewed in isolation, but it has made no secret of its disappointment that Mrs Gandhi has not gone far enough in condemning unequivocally the U.S. attempts to subvert the revolutionary regime that led to the Soviet military action.

Though India, on its part, has tended to view the Afghan tragedy as part of the new superpower race for dominance in the region, its continued insistence on Soviet withdrawal has displeased Moscow to some extent.

The Indian disposition to blame the U.S. primarily for the increased naval build-up in the Indian Ocean both before and after the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran conflict has not mitigated its concern at the augmentation of Soviet power in the area even if it be on a relatively modest scale.

The Soviet Union would have been quite satisfied with this qualified approach in more normal circumstances, if the imperatives of the new superpower rivalries had not impelled it to exert all possible influence to involve India more actively on its side in this unfolding cold war confrontation.

It is against this background that Mr Brezhnev has decided to pay this visit to see what could be done to restore the missing element of mutual reliance in India's special relationship with the Soviet Union. He is coming fully prepared to make the maximum use of the bait of increased economic aid to nudge India to fall in line with the basic postulates of the Soviet policies in the region, despite its continued reservations over specific actions like intervention in Afghanistan.

It is precisely for this reason that India has been making a conscious effort to restore the missing balance in its relations with the two superpowers and reduce its dependence on either of them.

The big military deal signed with Moscow last summer, which in fact was only an aggregation of many transactions under negotiation for the past several years, has not deterred India from going in for other weapon systems from the U.S. and other Western sources to diversify its arms purchases to the extent possible in the present circumstances.

The present Indian approach is to keep up a credible distinction between its bilateral relationship with the Soviet Union and its policy of non-involvement in the Soviet power puitsuits in the region. The country's capacity to sustain some degree of parallelism in its opposition to the U.S. and Soviet rivalries in the sensitive areas flanking the sub-continent will depend to a large extent on what attitude the new American administration is going to adopt towards it.

The Brezhnev visit will certainly go a long way in clarifying these basic features of Indo-Soviet relations by dispelling some of the outdated assumptions, but this process of reappraisal cannot crystallise into a redefinition of its fundamental aspects until India has a clearer picture of the policies that the U.S. president-elect, Mr Reagan, intends to pursue in the region.

But the visit will certainly provide an opportunity for some candid exchanges on the current Soviet and Indian thinking on the nature of their relationship in the light of the recent developments reflecting their mutual concerns and compulsions.

The Soviet president will be accompanied by a high-power delegation which will include the foreign minister, Mr Gromyko, and the minister for economic relations, Mr Arkhipov, besides a host of senior officials dealing with almost every aspect of Indo-Soviet relations.

An advance party of officials is expected to arrive earlier for preparatory talks on issues likely to come up for more detailed discussions between the two heads of government.

The Indo-Soviet joint commission was to have met in the third week of this month under the co-chairmanship of the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and Mr Arkhipov, to prepare for the Brezhnev visit, but the meeting has been put off till early January to enable the commission to devote itself to follow-up measures rather than preparatory discussions.

The new Indian ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr V.K. Ahuja, is leaving for Moscow in the next few days to finalise the arrangements for the Brezhnev visit.

#### GANDHI REVIEWS DOMESTIC, FOREIGN SITUATION AT PARTY MEETING

BK161616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 80

[Text] The prime minister has expressed concern at the violent turn of the farmer's agitation and the activities of Naxalites and antinational elements in several states. Mrs Gandhi was addressing the congress-I parliamentary party meeting on the eve of Parliament's session in New Delhi today.

She said farmers do have grievances and we have to sit together and see how best to sort them out, but they are not justified in uprooting railway tracks and disturbing public life. Mrs Gandhi said the government is committed to the welfare of the farmers and is taking steps in this regard. Referring to their demand for higher support prices, Mrs Gandhi said that they got more than the support price during her regime than the Janata-Lok Dal rule.

Turning to the communal incidents in Moradabad and other places, Mrs Gandhi said they caused deep distress to all. Moradabad, she said, brought a blot on the country. Though we thought the situation had been controlled, some incidents have erupted again, she said. The prime minister stressed the need to take all possible steps to control these incidents. In this context she referred to the decision to start a peace force which will comprise not only members from minorities but ex-servicemen and others belonging to all communities from different parts of the country. Mrs Gandhi pointed out that the local people should keep a vigil over those provoking and inciting such incidents, for it is not only the responsibility of the Uttar Pradesh Government and the center but of the people also.

She hoped that all political parties will extend help in this regard. She however pointed out that the opposition does not seem to be in a mood to help. She said we tried hard for this at the recent meeting of the National Integration Council. From the speeches and tendencies of these parties there seems to be no hope of help coming forth from them, she added.

Referring to the law and order situation, Mrs Gandhi said it appears to have improved on the whole. Stressing the need for a peaceful atmosphere she said unless peace prevails in the country, no development program can be thought of and implemented. The economic situation in the country has improved slightly. The government has been able to strengthen the infrastructure. Several measures have been taken, but they will not show results immediately. Several matters in which the government and the people in the country had been at a standstill before have now started moving in the right direction. The prime minister however said that the government has not been able to do much on the price situation. This is largely due to the rising cost of petroleum products and the shortage of sugar.

The prime minister described the general situation in the world as not good. The Iran-Iraq war does not show signs of stopping. Referring to several efforts to mediate between them, she said none of them have so far got off the ground. Leaders and representatives of these countries have been sent to India for support and help. Mrs Gandhi said both are our friends and we are in touch with both of them.

Mrs Gandhi also touched upon the Assam agitation. She said the government's stand has not been rigid. But the agitation leaders have not moved an inch from their stand. They have been told that the 1951 register will be taken into consideration along with other documents. Mrs Gandhi alleged that other parties and groups are exploiting the situation. She said they should cooperate with the government in bringing about normalcy in the state so that negotiations are resumed in a peaceful manner.

At the outset, Mrs Gandhi expressed her deep appreciation for the consistent support given by Kamalapati Tripathi [ex-railway minister] to the party all these years. She hoped that he will continue to extend his help though he is no longer in the Cabinet. Mrs Gandhi also congratulated engineers and technicians on their achievement in the field of satellites. Mrs Gandhi advised the party members of Parliament to take an active part in various discussions during the forthcoming session.

#### RAO COMMENTS ON GULF WAR, PAKISTAN, OTHER ISSUES

BK200947 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao has rejected the contention that India has not taken any initiative to bring an end to the Iran-Iraq conflict. Replying to questions in the Lok Sabha today he asserted that initiative has been taken and India is very much part of it.

Asked why he should not visit Tehran and Baghdad to mediate, Rao said he does not want to go alone as there is a proposal to visit these countries along with five or six foreign ministers of nonaligned countries. However, he pointed out that there are some difficulties and unless these are removed there is no question of any one going there alone or along with others.

The minister also informed the house that government is aware that Pakistan is making efforts to acquire uranium enrichment and nuclear fuel reprocessing capability which can enable it to assemble a nuclear device. He said that the government has seen press report that Pakistan is going to conduct nuclear test on Chinese territory very soon. Rao however said that the government has no confirmation of these reports.

P.V. Narasimha Rao told the house that while raising the Kashmir issue in the international forum, Pakistan has been violating the principles of noninterference in internal affairs and bilateralism enshrined in the Simla Agreement. The minister said that India has protested against and deplored the attempts of Pakistan to internationalize the Kashmir question and for carrying out hostile propaganda against India. India has emphasized at various international forums that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the country.

The minister also replied to questions about the treatment meted out to Indian nationals seeking entry into Britain. He said India has conveyed its concern to that country in this connection. Specific complaints have also been taken up by the Indian high commission in London with British authorities for inquiry and redress. The minister disclosed that India has lodged a strong protest to the British Government against the harassment caused by the immigration authorities recently to the members of theater group from Maharashtra.

#### UN Vote on Kampuchea Resolution

BK201101 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao made it clear in the lower house of Parliament today that India's abstention on the UN resolution adopted last month on elections in Kampuchea does not affect its recognition of the Heng Samrin government. In a written reply he said though certain aspects of the resolution were not consistent with India's approach, it contained some provisions that sought to undermine the Heng Samrin government. That was the reason why India abstained on resolution, which was sponsored by 30 countries and adopted by the UN General Assembly.

#### Opposition to Persian Gulf Force

BK210937 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao told the Rajya Sabha today that the proposal for an international conference to be held in Sri Lanka next year has run into rough weather because of the attitude of the United States and some other countries. He told members during question time that the matter is not as smooth as we expected.

Earlier, in reply to the main question the external affairs minister said India has warned the Western powers against their move to constitute an international naval force for the Gulf area. He said such a move will be dangerous, carrying with it the risk of heavy escalation of the present Iran-Iraq conflict.

Rao, however, added that he has no information to suggest that such a force has been formally constituted. There has been Anglo-U.S. naval exercises in the area earlier this month. Naval vessels from France and Australia were also present. Rao said India has consistently opposed big power military presence in the Indian Ocean as it introduces new tensions and conflicts in its neighborhood. India is working with other nonaligned littoral and hinterland states to seek elimination of big power military presence from the Indian Ocean.

#### Protest to Pakistan

BK211006 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] India has lodged a protest with Pakistan for projecting recent disturbances in India, both inside and outside Pakistan, in a way which is detrimental to India's efforts to normalize relations with that country. External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao informed this in the Rajya Sabha.

Rao also informed the house that six Indian sailing vessels stranded at Basra were sunk and one vessel was damaged by bombing since the outbreak of Iran-Iraq conflict. He said no precise assessment of the damage has been possible due to continuing fighting in the area. According to some estimates, the loss may be over 1 crore rupees.

#### UN ENVOY CALLS FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION IN AFGHANISTAN

BK200927 Belhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] India has called for opening a dialogue to find a political solution of the Afghanistan problem based on complete cessation of interference in the internal affairs of that country. India's permanent representative at the United Nations Brajesh Mishra put forward the government's concern and views on resolving the Afghan tangle during the debate in the General Assembly yesterday on the situation in Afghanistan.

Mishra said that India over the past several months had been engaged in consultations with a large number of countries from the region and outside to find a solution to the issue.

#### INDIA SEEKS SAFETY OF SHIPS STRANDED IN PERSIAN GULF

BK201038 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] India is in touch with the authorities in Iran and Iraq for the safety and release of four Indian ships stranded in the Shatt al-'Arab due to the conflict. This was stated in the Lok Sabha today by Minister of State for Shipping and Transport Buta Singh while replying to questions. He said of the four ships one is at Khorromshahr and the other three are Basra. A large number of ships, including these, are stranded there, and their movement out of the area is presently difficult, he added.

#### MATERIALS ON NE WIN'S 2-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT IN DELHI

##### Welcomed on Arrival

BK200924 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] Burmese President Ne Win was accorded a warm welcome on his arrival in New Delhi today. He was received at the airport by President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, prime minister Mrs Gandhi and External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao.

President Ne Win, who is on a 2-day official visit to this country, is accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs Lay Maung. He will call on the president in the afternoon. Later, Vice President Hidayatullah, the prime minister and the external affairs minister will call on the visiting dignitary. President Reddy is hosting a dinner in honor of President Ne Win tonight.

##### Ne Win-Gandhi Discussions

BK201554 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Excerpt] Burmese President Ne Win had an exchange of views lasting over an hour with Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi in New Delhi today. No aides were present. According to an official spokesman they discussed various matters of common interest to the two countries, including the situation in southwest and Southeast Asia.

On bilateral relations the two leaders agreed to explore possibilities of increasing economic and commercial cooperation.

## Reddy, Ne Win Banquet Speeches

BK210940 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0902 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] Speaking at a banquet he hosted in honour of U Ne Win, president of Burma, in New Delhi on 20 November, President N. Sanjiva Reddy said:

"It is a great pleasure for us to welcome you once more in our midst. You are, of course, no stranger to our country and our people and it is both as a leader of eminence and as an old and valued friend that we honour you today. You dedicated your life to the achievement of independence for your country and since then to ensure a united and prosperous Burma. Your significant contributions will undoubtedly be enshrined as the history of your nation is written. Geography has made us neighbours and our history has followed parallel paths. The teachings of Buddha form a central theme of the traditions of both our countries. More recently we were partners in the struggle for independence from colonialism. Our countries are plural societies with different languages, religions and cultures which we all treasure, and as they intertwine they enrich our lives and from them our people derive strength and sustenance. It is our endeavour to retain harmony and tolerance in our systems as they are basic structures of our society.

"Our countries have long enjoyed a closed and intimate relationship which has been enriched by working together in many fields. There is undoubtedly scope for enlarging the area and intensity of this cooperation, not only in economic relations but also in the fields of science, technology and other realms of human endeavour. Permit me to express the hope that your present visit will enable us to give added impetus to our joint efforts.

"Mister President, the world around us increasingly faces turmoil and turbulence. There is a perceptible increase of tensions and the prospect of a revival of cold war attitudes. The Indian Ocean, far from becoming a zone of peace, is moving instead towards becoming an area of increased great power and tension. [sentence as received] It is incumbent on all of us to make whatever contribution that lies within our power to reduce these tensions and to resolve conflicts and seek a regime within which the developing countries, like ourselves, can address themselves to their principal tasks of development which our peoples require so urgently. This requires both patience and persistence and it is our intention to continue our efforts regardless of difficulties confronting us.

"Mister President, your visit has provided us an opportunity to have a detailed exchange of views on the current international and regional situation. We have greatly benefited from your wise counsel and we look forward to maintaining our contacts and dialogue in the future. We are conscious of the continuing heavy responsibilities that you shoulder and we therefore feel privileged that you have found time to visit us. It is a matter of regret that on this occasion you have not been able to visit the holy places of Buddhism in India which are so close and dear to you. We would hope that you may be able to return very soon to spend more time with us."

Replying to toast, his excellency U Ne Win said: "Respected President N. Sanjiva Reddy, Excellency Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, distinguished guests and friends: I would first of all like to express our hearty thanks to His Excellency the president for this grand banquet and friendly words and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us at the time of our arrival. May I again express our deep appreciation for having this opportunity to renew old friendships and to forge new ones in India.

"We have come on this goodwill visit to India at the kind invitation of your excellencies the president and prime minister and with aim of further strengthening and consolidating the friendly relations that already exist between Burma and India.

"India is the birthplace of Buddhism. Burma is one of the countries where Buddhism has spread and flourished. This state of affairs clearly demonstrates that Burma and India have enjoyed friendly contacts since ancient times.

"Excellency Mister President, in present times relations between Burma and India are marked by basic characteristics of cordiality and mutual consideration. Based on these sentiments of friendship, the leadership of our two countries have on occasions exchanged views and experiences and have beneficially cooperated with one another. Although we live in a world of mounting crises, the establishment of close and active ties have resulted in an absence of major difficulties in relations between Burma and India. Should problems of a minor nature arise on occasion we are happy to note that it has been the practice of our two countries to resolve them in a spirit of broadmindedness, tolerance and fairness. In the area of international affairs, Burma and India share many ideals and points of view. However, there may arise occasions where our views do not exactly coincide and we are compelled to act in a pragmatic way in consonance with our respective situations and circumstances. But whatever those differences may be, we shall always be fully aware that they only concern our stance in international relations over which we only have a very limited influence and shall never permit them to adversely affect the friendly relations that have so happily existed between our two countries.

"In conclusion, may I express my firm belief that this current visit will further contribute toward the enhancement of the friendly relations that exist between us.

"Excellencies, distinguished guests and friends, I now request you to join me in a toast: To the health and well being of our distinguished host His Excellency Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, president of the Republic of India; to the health and well being of Her Excellency Indira Gandhi, prime minister of the Republic of India; to the progress and prosperity of the people of India; to lasting friendship between the peoples of Burma and India; to the health and well being of distinguished guests present here."

#### ROK SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY ARRIVES

BK211107 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] Special envoy of the president of the Republic of Korea Choi Kwan-su arrived in New Delhi last night on a 3-day visit. Talking to newsmen at the airport, Choi said he is looking forward to holding fruitful talks with the Indian leaders and exchange views with them on matters of mutual interest.

#### GOVERNMENT ASKS U.S. TO EXPEDITE URANIUM DELIVERY

BK210459 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] India has informed the U.S. Government that it would not accept continuing delays and uncertainties in the supply of enriched uranium fuel for the Tarapore atomic plant as mutually agreed upon in 1963. Stating this in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha yesterday, Minister of State for Science and Technology C.P.N. Singh said the government has requested the United States to clear the second shipment of fuel for Tarapore without any further delay. Singh said the second consignment of 19.8 tons of fuel for the atomic reactor of Tarapore has become overdue.

#### ENERGY OFFICIAL: HEAVY-WATER PRODUCTION PROBLEMS OVERCOME

BK201609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Excerpt] Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission Dr Sethna has said that a number of power stations using natural uranium with heavy water as a moderator are to be set up in the first phase of the country's nuclear program.

He said the country has overcome the problem of producing heavy water and it is only a matter of time to produce the requisite quantity of heavy water for our power program.

Dr Sethna was delivering the Sanjay Gandhi memorial lecture on energy strategy for the 80's organized by the development research group in New Delhi today. Dr Sethna said that the current indications are that the uranium resources in India can support a natural uranium reactor program of the order of 10,000 megawatts over its lifetime.

#### PETROLEUM MINISTER SPEAKS ON EFFORTS TO SECURE OIL SUPPLY

BK171113 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Nov 80

[Text] India has approached several countries, including the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, to make up the shortfall caused in the supply of imported crude due to the Iran-Iraq conflict. Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha today, Petroleum Minister P. C. Sethi said whereas some countries have made firm commitments, response from others are still awaited. He said supply of imported crude to our refineries is expected to be maintained.

In reply to another question, Sethi said all attempts are being made to intensify our exploration activities, and plans are being made for the exploitation of our established reserves. The minister also informed the house that the government is not considering any proposal to mobilize conservation of diesel, petrol and other such fuels through legislation.

#### FINANCE MINISTER DISCUSSES OIL SUPPLY IN SAUDI ARABIA, UAE

##### Promise From Saudis

BK180432 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Nov 80

[Text] Saudi Arabia has promised to supply India sufficient crude to help it tide over its oil crisis created by the stoppage of supplies from Iran and Iraq. This was stated by Finance Minister R. Venkataraman at Doha Airport while on his way to Dubayy for a 2-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

Venkataraman said that Saudi Arabia may not be able to wipe out the deficit of 1.1 billion tons because it has prior commitments to other countries. But, he said, Saudi Arabia knows our position and responded to our request.

The finance minister said he had cordial discussions with the Saudi oil minister Shaykh Zaki Yamani on bilateral and other issues. Later, in Dubayy, Venkataraman had talks with UAE Minister of Finance and Industry Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid. They discussed the possibility of the United Arab Emirates supplying light crude oil to India. Venkataraman is expected to meet UAE Vice President and Prime Minister Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum today.

##### Pledge From UAE

BK190344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] The United Arab Emirates is understood to have promised additional supplies of crude to India. It will provide half a million tons of crude, apart from the 1 million tons which is supplied to India every year. An agreement to this effect is said to have been reached during discussions between the finance minister, Venkataraman, and his UAE counterpart, Shaykh Hamdan Rashid, in Dubayy.

Venkataraman earlier visited Saudi Arabia, which has also agreed to consider supplying additional crude to India. Venkataraman returned to the capital a short while ago after his visit.

## OIL PURCHASE ACCORD SIGNED WITH MALAYSIA

BK170623 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1604 GMT 15 Nov 80

[Text--On November the Indian commissioner in Kuala Lumpur signed with Petronas, on behalf of the Indian Oil Corporation [IOC], a spot contract for the purchase of 50,000 tonnes of crude oil in one lot from Malaysia. The crude will be lifted by IOC on or around 29 November from eastern Malaysia. This will be our first ever purchase of crude oil from Malaysia.

## PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH OFFER FUEL SUPPLY

BK171020 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Nov 80

[Text] The upper house was officially informed today that Pakistan and Bangladesh have both offered to supply fuel oil to India. Some cargoes of furnace oil from both the countries have been received. But the house was not given details in keeping with international business practices.

## VENEZUELA LIKELY TO SUPPLY OIL TO INDIA

BK181641 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Nov 80

[Text] Venezuela is likely to supply crude to India next year. Venezuelan offer is understood to have been made during the recent visit of Petroleum Secretary B.B. Vohra to Caracas. A final decision in this regard will be taken shortly and the contract signed later by the Indian Oil Corporation. It is not immediately known how much oil India will be getting from Venezuela, but it will be the first time the supplies will come from that country.

## DOMESTIC SATELLITE NETWORK INAUGURATED

BK151619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Nov 80

[Excerpt] The domestic satellite telecommunications network connecting New Delhi and Madras with remote areas of Car Nicobar, Port Blair, Kavaratti, Leh and Aijol was inaugurated today by the prime minister at Sikandrabad near Bullandshahr about 70 km from New Delhi. Earth stations set up at all these seven places are now connected through the international telecommunications satellite.

Speaking on the occasion Mrs Gandhi reiterated that the government is fully aware of the problems of remote areas. All efforts are being made to promote the welfare and economic development in these areas. Hailing the event as historic, Mrs Gandhi said that the new link will not only strengthen unity among different regions but also help the speedy development of remote areas.

## GOVERNMENT 'AWARE' OF PAKISTAN'S EFFORT ON FRENCH AIRCRAFT

BK211110 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] India is aware of Pakistan's move to acquire sophisticated aircraft from France in sizable number. Minister of State for Defense Shivraj Pathak said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha that the threat posed to India from this Pakistani move is being kept in mind while planning for the modernization of our defense services.

## CHECKS REVEAL OPERATIONAL READINESS OF AF MiG'S UNAFFECTED

BK181425 New Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Nov 80 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, 10 Nov--The operational readiness of the Indian Air Force's [IAF] MiG fighter squadron has not been affected in any way as a result of checks being carried out on the MiG-21M's. This follows the Soviet warning that the wing spars may have been sent without proper heat treatment.

There are only a limited number of MiG-21M'S in the IAF. This is the only version of the MiG that is being checked, and nearly two-thirds of them have already been okayed for flying.

IAF sources here denied that the check on the MiGs had affected the "fighting potential of the air force".

The checks have been underway for over a month and most aircraft have been checked and cleared. It was not necessary to ground all the MiGs, the sources said, and this did not amount to a mandatory inspection. The fighter planes could keep flying but they were only being checked for defects so that the wing spars could be used for its full flying life.

#### GOVERNMENT TO USE SOVIET-BUILT AN-32 IN DEFENSE FORCE

BK200820 Hong Kong AFP in English 0748 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] New Delhi, 20 Nov (AFP)--Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi today announced the government's decision to induct the Soviet-built AN-32 as the medium haul transport aircraft for the defense force.

Mrs Gandhi told the Parliament that the aircraft would replace the old fleet of Packet and Dakota planes. She refused to disclose the number of aircraft proposed to be procured from the Soviet Union pleading that it would not be in the country's interest.

#### DALAI LAMA RETURNS TO DELHI FROM FOUR-NATION TOUR 18 NOV

BK190035 Hong Kong AFP in English 1720 GMT 18 Nov 80

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Nov (AFP)--The Dalai Lama, Tibetan spiritual leader, arrived here today after a 45-day four nation tour. He was received at the airport by Indian officials and was greeted by hundreds of Tibetan refugees here.

During his foreign tour, the 48-year-old Tibetan God king visited Canada, Italy, Hawaii and Japan. He met the Pope in Rome and attended the Japanese Buddhist congress in Tokyo on November 1.

## SHAHI CALLS FOR TOTAL SOVIET PULLOUT FROM AFGHANISTAN

BK181206 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 18 Nov 80

[Text] Pakistan has again called for a total, immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and a peaceful and political solution of the Afghan crisis.

The call was made by Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi in the UN General Assembly while introducing a draft resolution, cosponsored by 40 nations, on the Afghanistan problem last night. The assembly is resuming its debate on the issue tonight.

Elaborating on the text of the draft resolution, the foreign minister said Pakistan has a direct and vital stake in a peaceful political solution of the conflict which has burdened it with the responsibility for 1.2 million refugees. He expressed the hope that after the adoption of the resolution the secretary general would proceed immediately to appoint a special representative to undertake a mission assigned in the resolution. He also proposed the convening of an international pledging conference to provide additional humanitarian assistance for the Afghan refugees.

He said since the assembly last met to consider the grave situation arising from the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, the number of Soviet troops there have been heavily augmented and repressive measures against the Afghan population continued unabated. This tragedy had set back detente and reversed the relaxation of international tension. He said the Islamic countries feared that this intervention, if allowed, would constitute a precedent for similar intervention by major powers against their smaller nonaligned neighbors.

Agha Shahi said that the Islamic conference have been making efforts to promote a peaceful solution of the crisis but these have been frustrated by the refusal of the Soviet Union and the Kabul regime to cooperate with their 3-member standing committee. He added that the Afghan crisis is not a bilateral matter between Afghanistan and its neighbors. It concerned the fundamental principles of nonuse of force, nonintervention and noninterference, all of which had been violated in the case of a nonaligned Islamic state--Afghanistan.

The ambassadors of Oman and Paraguay, in their speeches, also criticized the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and called for the withdrawal of foreign troops from that country.

## Shahi Press Conference

BK211108 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi has said the overwhelmingly adopted UN General Assembly resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan has decisively and emphatically expressed the will of the international community. Addressing a crowded news conference in New York, he said the sponsors of the proposal were not interested in diplomatic triumphs but only in an honest search for just and honorable solution of the problem and defusing tension in southwest Asia.

Pakistan, he said, remained in no doubt about the continuing gravity of the situation and the difficulties which still have to be overcome before a settlement is reached. He maintained that Pakistan will fully cooperate and offer all possible facilities to the UN secretary general and its special representative to promote a peaceful settlement of the issue.

Agha Shahi said Pakistan's stand on the Afghan question was characterized by its observance of the principle not recognize a government installed by foreign forces. Pakistan was standing alone against a superpower despite various difficulties.

As regards Pakistan's idea of an international conference for humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees, he said a concrete proposal would be presented at the session of the Economic and Social Council in March next.

Further on Press Conference

BK211104 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Excerpts] The UN General Assembly has once again adopted a resolution with an overwhelming majority stressing immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and asking the concerned parties to create a situation necessary for a political solution. Later, the Pakistan foreign minister told a news conference that the UN special envoy will have to visit Kabul, Islamabad and Moscow to discover a common basis of an understanding. He said that there is no disagreement between any of the parties for granting nonaligned and independent status to Afghanistan. Even the Soviet Union has said that it would withdraw its forces under certain conditions and these conditions should be determined through negotiations and an agreement for a pullout. Agha Shahi said that Pakistan has always said that it will not become a source of supply of arms to Afghan freedom fighters who are fighting against the Karmal administration as well as the Soviet troops.

DEFENSE MINISTRY DENIES RECEIVING CHINESE AIRCRAFT, MISSILES

BK161532 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Nov 80

[Text] A Defense Ministry spokesman in Islamabad has described as baseless the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA report that China has started dispatching three squadrons of its most modern fighter aircraft and SAM-2 ground-to-air missiles [to Pakistan]. Commenting on the agency's report, the spokesman said that there is no truth in the report and it is totally fabricated.

FUEL OIL TO BE EXPORTED TO INDIA

BK201053 Karachi Domestic Service in English 10005 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] Pakistan is to export about 90,000 tons of surplus fuel oil from the 2 refineries at Karachi. Of this, 50,000 tons of fuel oil is to be exported to India. The export of surplus fuel oil will draw a foreign exchange of over \$14.1 million to Pakistan.

WIFE OF TUNISIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

BK200916 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] Madame Bourguiba, the wife of the Tunisian president, arrived in Karachi last night on a week's official visit to Pakistan. She was received, among others, by Mrs (Atia Enayetullah) at the airport. Madame Bourguiba is arriving in Islamabad this morning where she will be received by Mrs Ziaul Haq. During her stay in the capital she will visit Tarbela and the national organization of [words indistinct]. She will also go to Lahore and Peshawar and will visit a tented village of refugees near Landi Kotal.

KARACHI DENIES FORMER MAUAL OFFICER TRIED FOR SUBVERSION

BK201040 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] Official sources in Islamabad today denied that Munir Warraich had been tried and sentenced to death for anti-state activities. There is also no truth in the press reports that security agencies have unearthed a large quantity of unlicensed weapons and subversive literature in this connection, however, Munir Warraich and a few other persons are under interrogation for leaking out classified information to unauthorized sources in 1976.

## RAJA'I COMMENTS ON HOSTAGES, WAR IN PRESS CONFERENCE

JN201826 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1745 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i held a press conference this morning during which he spoke about the U.S. hostages and the declared war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as other subjects.

Regarding the hostages issued, Raja'i said: This issue is over as far as we are concerned. He also noted that the Majlis' views were extremely frank and clear. We hope that the U.S. Government, which has endeavored to bring about the release of the hostages, does not try to use some kind of protracted negotiations. But the fact is that the U.S. Government prefers that the issue be solved on a political basis.

Raja'i said: Our stand is clear in this regard. He also said that there is no special dialogue concerning the economic embargo. It seems that the United States did not fully understand the issue. Therefore, we are determined to give it further explanations to the end.

Asked about the provisions of the 1975 Algiers agreement, Raja'i said: Iraq, which abrogated this treaty, alleges that in accordance with one of the provisions agreed on in the aforementioned agreement, we have to give it some of our lands that it has so far failed to obtain. Therefore, it has used this issue as a pretext to launch an attack on us. We have repeatedly announced that we have no disputes with the Iraqi people over a few hundred kilometers of land. I have told Waldheim's personal envoy, Olof Palme, that our country is the homeland of every Iraqi and that Iraq is the homeland of every Iranian.

Raja'i said: Palme's visit to Iran will make no difference to the war that we are waging in defense of the homeland. He added: It is our brother and sister fighters in Khuzestan who will sign the cease-fire agreement and not Mr Palme or international circles.

On the possibilities of a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, the prime minister said: We are absolutely against it. It has become clear in the Supreme Defense Council that the aggression was launched by Iraq; therefore, Saddam should be brought to trial, so that the Iraqi people can be freed.

The press conference was attended by several Iranian and foreign correspondents.

## AFP Report

NC200910 Paris AFP in English 0903 GMT 20 Nov80

[Text] Tehran, 20 Nov (AFP)--Iran is supplying supplementary explanations about its conditions for freeing the American hostages, because "the United States is pretending not to understand the problem very well," Premier Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i said today.

But he told a questioner at a press conference Iran might also ask the U.S. for clarifications on its week-old reply to the four conditions set by Iran's parliament.

Mr Raja'i said the freeze on delivery of American weapons purchased by Iran was "an important problem" linked to the hostage case. "The delivery of those arms is our right," he commented.

He agreed with the opinion expressed by Speaker of Parliament Hashemi Rafsanjani in Algiers yesterday that the U.S. had already accepted in principle the four conditions, he added.

Mr Raja'i said the hostage problem was "already settled" as far as his government was concerned, since Parliament's conditions were "clear".

"We hope the American Government... does not try to mix in political discussions and carry on protracted talks," he said. Mr Raja'i declined to predict when the Iranian reply to the U.S. would be sent, merely saying it was "being prepared."

He said the transfer of the hostages to his government's custody, which was proposed more than 2 weeks ago by the "Islamic students" that seized them, was "being carried out."

Mr Raja'i told newsmen talks he had this morning with United Nations mediator Olof Palme, the former Swedish premier, would "make no difference concerning the war. In my view... as I have said several times, we will carry on the war to defend our country. "Our brothers and sisters fighting in Khuzestan are the ones who will sign an armistice, it will not be Mr Palme or international organizations."

"We have stated that (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn will be judged by international bodies and that the Iraqi people will be freed from his grip. The essential problem is to end his aggression against the Iraqi people and there is no question of accepting a cease-fire," Mr Raja'i said.

Mr Raja'i said he had asked Iran's constitutional council to examine his differences with President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr. If the council was unable to reply because the Constitution was unclear, "we will be able to ask the people and say... it is up to them to resolve the question...."

Mr Palme was expected to visit the war front tomorrow, and then leave the next morning for talks with Iraq's president in Baghdad, the Swedish Embassy said.

#### RAJA'I TRAVELS TO QOM TO HOLD TALKS 21 NOV

LD211158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] According to a report from the Qom correspondent of the Central News Bureau, at 1100 today Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister, arrived in Qom. After visiting the holy shrine of Her Holiness Fatehah Ma'sumeh, may God's blessings be upon her, he met with Their Great Eminences Golpaygani and Najafi-Mar'ashi and talked about the important national issues and learned the views of these two marja' [sources of imitation].

After these meetings, Mr Raja'i went to Hakim Mezami school where the Friday congregational prayers are held. The vast crowd which had participated in the prayers welcomed him by shouting greetings to Raja'i. The prime minister said his prayers with the valiant and believing inhabitants of Qom, under the leadership of the illustrious faqih, His Great Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri.

Mr Raja'i meetings and discussions will continue till this afternoon.

AFP: BANI-SADR SAYS BORDER TALKS BEGAN BEFORE WAR

NC202035 Paris AFP in English 2017 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] Tehran, 20 Nov 80 (AFP)--Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said here today that frontier negotiations had been started by Iran and Iraq before the "Iraqi aggression" of September 22, when the Gulf war started.

In a speech to a huge crowd in a Tehran mosque today, Mr Bani-Sadr insisted that Iraq's attack was not due to a refusal by Iran to modify the frontier in respect to the Algiers accords of 1975, which were signed by the two countries.

"Perhaps you did not know that the frontier negotiations were underway and that a part of the frontier was already laid out with stakes," Mr Bani-Sadr told the crowd.

"But documents exist on this subject," he added. "It was Iraq that withdrew its negotiators and slammed the door because it did not want this (settlement) to be reached."

The Iranian president said that both the United States and Iraq had reasons for the conflict. He said that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn wanted "the artificial support of his country's public opinion," while at the same time weeking "to appear as the region's power" following the fall of the former shah.

Washington and Baghdad's aims, he explained, were "to make Iran fall like a ripe apple into the hands of (President-elect) Ronald Reagan, who represents the fascism and militarism that dominate American thinking, and so that Reagan would take up his duties with a victory in this region."

The Iranian leader admitted that the nation was facing grave economic difficulties. "We are locked in total war outside and within, in Khuzestan, Kordestan and other places" he said.

"We are losing the freedom to speak out, a freedom that has already suffered several severe blows," Mr Bani-Sadr said, returning to an issue that had received major consideration in another speech he delivered yesterday.

In that talk, before hundreds of thousands of Iranians, the president had criticized "those forces that are seeking to monopolize power" in the country. And he had denounced censorship, illegal imprisonment and torture.

In his speech today, he attacked several newspapers, saying that they had become weapons for mounting attacks on rivals, or public relations instruments.

"If the radio-television system had accepted free discussion as a means of seeking solutions, it would have become the greatest force of the Islamic Republic," he said. "Unfortunately, this approach was not accepted."

Mr Bani-Sadr told the crowd that there were many indications of intolerance in Iran today. "When someone says something, don't you take your club to hit him over the head? Is this according to the Koran? The fear of these clubs is as bad as the fear of the SAVAK (the former shah's secret police)."

At the end of his speech, which was punctuated by cries of support by the crowd, several thousand people marched through the streets, shouting pro-Bani-Sadr slogans.

TEHRAN REPORTS RAFSANJANI ALGIERS PRESS CONFERENCE

LD201902 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, took part in a press, radio and television conference in Algiers last night. Speaking about the results of his visit to Algiers, he said: So far I consider this trip as being completely successful.

We have come to this country at the invitation from our Brother Bitat, the speaker of the Algerian Assembly, to acquaint ourselves with the Algerian people and to explain the Islamic Republic of Iran's political and military positions. In this connection we have so far held meetings which have been extremely useful and constructive. With regard to the issues raised by us, my brothers, the president of the republic and speaker of the Algerian Assembly, have shown the utmost cooperation.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly then replied to numerous questions about the issue of the hostages.

Mr Rafsanjani also gave his opinion on the statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Algerian National Liberation Front, broadcast by Algerian television. He said: This statement contains some positive points, including the fact that Algeria condemns those people not respecting the Algiers agreement. Those who issued the statement, in their talks with us, confirmed that Iraq had violated the Algiers agreement. Another positive point is that this statement calls on the aggressor to withdraw his forces from our country and to return to his former positions.

Referring to the close ties of friendship between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Algeria, Mr Rafsanjani said: As our nations are so close it would be a pity not to utilize this heartfelt relationship which exists between the Iranian and Algerian Muslim nations. Refraining from employing such force as to smash the dike of colonialism and exploitation, to expel the regime occupying Jerusalem from the region and to save the Islamic countries from the clutches of Zionism and imperialism would be tantamount to an injustice.

The PARS report from Algeria also notes that Mr Rafsanjani met and held talks this morning with Mr Mohammad Abdelghani, the prime minister of Algeria. He then left Algeria for Libya.

#### BEHESHTI REPORTS ON 20 NOV MEETING WITH KHOMEYNI

LD201831 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] This evening, according to PARS, Ayatollah Dr Mohammad Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court of the country, Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili, the state prosecutor general, and Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Qoddusi, the prosecutor general of the Islamic revolution, were received by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

After this meeting, the PARS correspondent asked Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Beheshti about the issues discussed in the presence of the imam of the nation. Dr Beheshti answered: My meeting with the imam dealt with our duties with regard to the questions posed by society following the recent events, and the imam stressed the same points as before, meaning that now is the time when we should pass over such issues rapidly and endeavor to maintain calm more than ever, and cooperate, maintain unanimity of thought, and coordinate our actions in fighting the enemy. Therefore he once again asked everybody to be united in fighting the enemy, and not to provide the enemy and the opposers of the Islamic revolution with any opportunities.

## UNAUTHORIZED LOCAL COUNCILS, STAFFS OUTLAWED

WA211100 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 80 p 2

[Text] Today Minister of the Interior Mahdavi-Kani published an order regarding organizing local councils and mobilization staffs which stated that persons who take measures illegally to organize these councils will be subject to legal prosecution.

The text of the interior minister's order is as follows:

In the name of God. At this time when the fighting and heroic nation of Iran is valiantly conducting a holy war and defending the holy revolution and our dear Islamic country, regarding groups that are ignoring obligatory principles and duties and have illegally taken measures to circulate anonymous notices inviting people to organize local councils, mobilization staffs, and municipal services, the Ministry of the Interior is, in keeping with its legal duties, informing the public that elections for city and local councils must be held according to the established rules and under supervision of the Ministry of the Interior. Also, since the bill about the duties and charter of the councils is now being studied by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and since responsibility for municipal mobilization has legally been entrusted to the Ministry of the Interior, these measures have been declared illegal and persons who take them will be prosecuted according to law. In conclusion, it should be mentioned that persons who assist the public in fair distribution of urgent supplies locally under supervision of the clergy and reliable persons are exempt from this order.

[Signed] Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani, minister of the interior

## PUBLICITY HEADQUARTERS SETS GUIDELINES FOR NEWSPAPERS

LD201432 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Statement issued on 20 November by the Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council met with the editors of various newspapers to discuss what they are publishing and announces that it will take necessary action against newspapers which deviate from the guidelines approved at this meeting. These guidelines have also resulted in greater coordination among the various newspapers themselves and in the solution of differences among them.

The attack on the offices of MIZAN, despite the positions, mistakes and shortcomings of this newspaper which were subsequently pointed out to its responsible officials, is regarded by the Publicity Headquarters as an action contrary to correct and Islamic methods bidding the people to do good and forbidding them from doing evil. It went against the resolutions of the Supreme Defense Council and was contrary to the methods approved in the resolution of the joint meeting of the editors of mass circulation newspapers and the Publicity Headquarters.

The Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council, condemning this method of operation, warns the officials of the country's security forces that certain people, by engaging in such actions, are trying to create division and pessimism between the valiant, fighting and Muslim people of Iran and revolutionary organizations. This is yet another plan to create division and differences in our Islamic society which more than ever requires the unity of Islamic forces. Therefore, the revolutionary and security forces of the country must prosecute individuals who by resorting to such methods cause pessimism among the valiant and Muslim Iranian nation as well as throughout the world concerning the revolutionary organizations and the goals of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

## OPEC OFFICIAL CONTACTED REGARDING KIDNAPPED MINISTER

LD202042 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] The Islamic society of Iran's petroleum industry today sent a telegram to Rene G. Ortiz, the secretary general of OPEC, in regard to the kidnapping of the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Iraqi mercenaries. In this message they expressed their sorrow regarding the silence of OPEC in the face of the kidnapping of the oil minister of a country by another member of the same organization. The message continued saying: When brotherhood and fraternity are the major elements making possible the unity and solidarity among the members of a powerful organization such as OPEC, how can the kidnapping of the oil minister of a country be justified?

The Islamic society of Iran's petroleum industry in the conclusion of this telegram has asked the OPEC secretary general to do his best in helping free the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran as soon as possible and in this manner to free the great organization from the yoke of distress and dissension.

## IRANIANS IN UAE VOLUNTEER TO FIGHT FOR IRAN

GF211221 Abadan NIOC Radio in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] Our correspondent in Dubayy reports that more than 100 Iranian workers living in Ash-Shariqah have declared their readiness to go to the battlefield to fight Saddam's infidel forces.

The correspondent adds that a Muslim Kuwaiti citizen has donated 200 heaters and 500 (?buses) to assist war victims in Iran. He said: We Muslim Kuwaitis pray to Almighty God for quick victory for the Islamic Republic of Iran in its war with the atheist Ba'thist regime and for the overthrow of Saddam at-Tikriti's regime.

## SYRIANS, YAR YOUTHS VOLUNTEER TO FIGHT

JN210658 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] PARS reports that two Syrian subjects residing in the YAR have announced on behalf of the Syrian workers and university groups in the YAR readiness to participate in the fronts of battle of right against wrong.

The two Syrian citizens said that along with 200 armed and trained believer youths, they are ready to fight in the war against the infidel Iraqi Ba'thists alongside the struggling Muslim Iranian brothers.

## AHVAZ COMMENTARY REBUTS KUWAITI ALLEGATIONS

GF201855 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Arabic 1602 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] For the second time, Kuwait has claimed that planes of the Iranian Air Force have violated its airspace. The first allegation of this sort was followed by wide political propaganda maneuvers by the Gulf states and some of the reactionary regimes that have been looking forward to stirring up troubled waters. However, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a reply stressing Iran's peaceful policy and stating that it did not violate Kuwait's airspace. [passage indistinct]

What is the truth? What was meant by the Kuwaiti allegation and the Gulf's intense political and propaganda maneuvers? Kuwait's allegation was not verified by any of the region's states and there was no evidence proving that the planes belonged to the Iranian Air Force.

What is the relation between this report and the negative Kuwaiti stand--at last with regard to the press--toward the Islamic Republic of Iran?

Iraq's rulers have embroiled themselves in an unequal war with the Islamic Republic due to their incorrect military and political calculations. This has resulted in Iraq's complete failure in the military and political fields. All the attempts by Iraq's Ba'thist rulers to obtain a cease-fire with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the mediations of many parties to stop the war launched by the Ba'thist rulers have failed. The overthrow of this regime has become definite due to its military and political failure. This failure is felt by the agent rulers in Baghdad and even the rulers of the reactionary regimes that are linked to colonialism. These regimes played a major role in waging this war, such as the regime of agent shah Husayn, who is now facing the anger of his masses and the local demonstrations, some of which are being led by the conscious clergy in Jordan.

These regimes are about to fall forever, and they have started looking for a new method in order to reduce the effects of this definite threat. The new method devised by these regimes is to hold fast to the Arab summit conference that will be held in Amman, the capital of one of the most reactionary and agent regimes, the regime that created Black September for the Palestinians and dealt with Israel and bargained with it on the West Bank.

Since holding the Arab summit conference requires clear justifications that prove the need for such a conference, the masters started plotting a conspiracy in order to rescue their agents who are about to fall. The existence of differences among the Arab countries is not enough to justify holding the summit conference, because there are always differences among the Arab countries.

Since the war has been imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Ba'thist rulers--this war that has failed--it has become clear to all Arab Muslim peoples, who have realized that this war is not between Arabs and non-Arabs, but a devised conspiracy, that it is a war between belief and infidelity. Therefore, those rulers started looking for some justification to hold the summit conference.

We have seen how the allegation was made and how it was followed by a wide propaganda campaign with cables of support pouring into Kuwait as if the Islamic Republic of Iran had intended to launch an attack against the Arab countries. Even if the reports on Iran's alleged violation of Kuwait's airspace were correct, does such an action deserve to be responded to with cables of support from the heads of the reactionary Gulf and non-Gulf states, who declared their full support to that state without even trying to investigate the incident or search for the truth?

We cannot let this incident pass without seeing the traces of a conspiracy against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which can at least help prepare for the reactionary Arab summit conference during which the necessary steps for safeguarding the reactionary regimes that are threatened by their own people will be discussed.

The insistence of the Iraq-Jordan-Saudi axes on holding this conference in Amman, and the rejection of the progressive Arab regimes, such as Syria, of such a conference is the best evidence that this summit conference is meant to gather the reactionary Arab regimes for the above-mentioned purpose.

We want to inform our Arab and non-Arab Muslim peoples that the Islamic Republic of Iran did not and will not ever attack any Gulf or non-Gulf states. For this reason, the Foreign Ministry has issued a statement stressing this and saying that the mere allegation followed by an intense propaganda campaign is nothing but an unfriendly action that worsens the situation and embroils these regimes in problems that were never expected. Let these regimes learn a lesson from what has happened to Iraq and Jordan, who have embroiled themselves and cannot find away out.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 304, 305

304: 19 Nov Military Activity

LD201756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1639 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Communique 304 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Muslim, revolutionary compatriots of Iran: Here is a brief account of the valiant battles waged by the Armed Forces of Iran:

1. The fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday, 19 November, attacked and damaged a number of enemy tanks, vehicles and guns in the western part of the country. Also, in the area north of Abadan, casualties and losses were inflicted upon the enemy yesterday during operations carried out by the fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
2. The combatant heroes of Ahvaz's 92d Division yesterday, 19 November, killed a large number of enemy personnel in the Susangerd region while totally destroying 10 tanks, 10 military vehicles and 6 ammunition depots.
3. During the night of 19 November the units of the Ground Forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, enjoying the valuable cooperation of the guard corps and the support of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, launched heroic attacks on enemy forces in the western parts of the country, cleaned up the (Kur-e Mush) hills in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, destroyed a complete enemy battery in Gilan-e Gharb and were able to wrest away from the enemy fortified positions in (Dasht-e Zahab) and Sumar. During these operations, a large number of armor was destroyed, a few hundred enemy personnel were killed, a number were wounded and among our own forces, a number were martyred and some others were wounded.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

305: Susangerd, Abadan Successes

LD202120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Communique 305 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Muslim struggling compatriots of Iran: The champion combatants of the Airborne Division of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran today bravely attacked the enemy forces and dealt the following blows:

1. In the Susangerd region, they completely destroyed 10 tanks, 1 antiaircraft cannon, 2 five-five guns, 1 Katyusha gun, 5 recoilless guns, 3 ammunition trucks and killed more than 90 enemy personnel.
2. To the north and northwest of Abadan they completely destroyed three vehicles, one command jeep, one personnel carrier, two tanks and killed a large number of enemy personnel.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

## FIGHTING CONTINUES ON SUSANGERD FRONT

## PARS on 19 Nov Situation

LD191426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Excerpt] A PARS reporter in Ahvaz, quoting one of the fighters of the Islamic revolution who returned from Susangerd this morning, reports: from this morning the self-sacrificing soldiers of Islam have started extensive operations against the positions of the aggressive enemy on the Susangerd battlefronts. According to this report, simultaneous with the attack of the defenders of the revolution, the helicopters of the Airborne Division flew over enemy positions and smashed the positions of the mercenaries of Saddam. The same report says that in today's battle the helicopters of the Airborne Division inflicted heavy casualties and damage upon the aggressive enemy and set fire to an ammunition depot of the Ba'thist mercenaries. The latest report received from PARS indicates that at 1015 this morning, the time when the report was received, the fighting between the forces of the Islamic revolution and the forces of blasphemy was continuing.

Another report transmitted by the PARS correspondent who visited the Susangerd front yesterday indicates that although the city of Susangerd is completely under the control of our forces, nevertheless the enemy artillery continues to fire at the city from a distance. According to this report, yesterday the Susangerd front extended to the entire area between this city and Bostan and the enemy, which had retreated 4 km away from the city in the northwest direction yesterday morning again advanced to 1 km from Susangerd. However, once again the enemy was forced to retreat due to the fire of the brave fighters.

The PARS correspondent, who yesterday inspected the remains of enemy tanks and vehicles in the front line of battle in Susangerd, adds in his report: In an area with a radius of 1 km the remains of nearly 20 burned-out tanks and 5 undamaged tanks and several other vehicles could be seen. The same report adds: In the tanks left behind by the filthy mercenaries of Saddam, were female clothes and umbrellas plundered from the residences of [Princess] Shams, as well as beer cans, filthy magazines and books for learning the Persian language.

## Iraqis Retreating, Iranians Mopping Up

LD191801 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] The Central News Bureau correspondent in Ahvaz, who today spent several hours on a tour of inspection of various parts of Susangerd and its environs, reported: After the armed brothers of the Islamic Republic of Iran had completely cleaned up the city and established full control over it, and also following the attack launched last night against the enemy's infantry positions west of Susangerd, the Iraqi Army was forced to retreat after suffering very high casualties. Up to the time of our correspondents departure from Susangerd, that is 1700, police groups and revolution guards and the Army of the Islamic Republic, with support fire from the artillery and Airborne Division, have been advancing and carrying out mopping-up operations from the western part of this city, and are pounding one infidel position after the other.

One of the warriors told our correspondent: Heavy casualties and losses have been inflicted on the mercenary enemy, who has been forced to retreat to Kharkeh Kur. The report says that the Ba'thist mercenaries, who are unable to resist the forces of Islam who are waging battle on the anniversary of Imam Hoseyn's martyrdom, have launched a cowardly artillery attack on Susangerd's residential districts. A mortar explosion martyred three persons and wounded another two.

Also the brother guards are burying the bodies of the Ba'thist mercenaries who were killed in the past few days.

According to a PARS dispatch, the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenary forces several times today aimed their long-range artillery at Ahvaz' residential areas during the anniversary of Imam Hoseyn's martyrdom, injuring a number of innocent citizens.

Khuzestan's supply and medical staff command at 1750 reported that 10 wounded persons have been taken into hospital in Ahvaz; up to the time of the report, 1750, a total of 59 wounded persons and 5 martyrs had been moved from the Susangerd front to Ahvaz.

#### Fighting at Front

LD200652 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] According to a PARS report dispatched last night, fighting is going on between the heroes defending Islam and the forces of blasphemy on the Susangerd front. The soldiers of Islam are still clearing the region of the filth of infidel Saddamists.

At present, small numbers of enemy forces are in the northwestern sector on the Susangerd and (Dahlaviyeh) axes in an area four to five kilometers from town, and in the southern sector in one of the villages. These forces throughout yesterday came under the artillery fire of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

PARS has also reported from Dub-e Herdan. Yesterday there was a heavy clash between the Muslim combatants and the Iraqi aggressive forces in this region. In this clash the combatants of Islam managed to push back the enemy forces in several areas. There is not any accurate information about the extent of losses and damage inflicted upon the enemy.

#### Iraqi Losses

LD201815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] PARS reports from Ahvaz that fighting between the combative forces of Islam and the forces of blasphemy in Susangerd, Dub-e Herdan and Ahvaz is still continuing. According to the same report, the helicopters of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran today killed more than 90 mercenaries at the Susangerd front and injured more than 50 others. In the heroic operations carried out by the Airborne Division 10 tanks, 1 antiaircraft gun, 1 ammunition tent, 7 cannons and 1 Katyusha gun belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

According to another PARS report from Ahvaz, in the operations carried out on the days of Tasu'a and 'Ashura [18 and 19 November] on the Susangerd front 60 tanks, 39 cannons, 1 Katyusha, 4 five-five guns and 8 vehicles carrying ammunition were destroyed, and 233 of the deceived soldiers of Saddam were killed or injured.

#### Iranians Recapture Positions

LD201818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1642 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] According to the latest PARS reports from the Susangerd front, the brave fighters of the guards corps and the mobilization personnel today retook new positions from the Ba'thist mercenaries through guerrilla attacks on the aggressive enemy.

A PARS correspondent, on his return from the Susangerd front, reported on the situation in the town.

Susangerd, which after the penetration of Ba'thist mercenaries in some parts of the town has become war-torn, is being defended by the heroes of Islam. The bodies of the enemy soldiers which had been left in various parts of the town have all been buried by the defending forces.

#### Heavy Artillery Fire

LD211208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1038 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] According to a report from the correspondent of the Central News Bureau who returned to Ahvaz from Susangerd this morning, the city of Susangerd has been completely cleansed of the filthy existence of the enemy mercenaries, and our forces, after crossing the bridge over the Sableh River, pushed back the enemy forces which had attacked the city from the direction of Bostan and (Dahlaviyeh) village to 2 km west of Susangerd. At the moment the enemy forces are stationed in fortifications which were used by our forces before the recent enemy attack against Susangerd.

This report indicates that at the moment the city of Susangerd is under heavy enemy artillery fire. The report of the correspondents of the Central News Bureau and PARS indicates that from early hours of this morning until 0700 the city of Susangerd came under the artillery fire of the Iraqi mercenaries and the valiant Islamic defenders returned the enemy fire.

According to the report of the Central News Bureau, in this battle one of our fighters was martyred and a few others were wounded. This morning the helicopters of the Airborne Division also took part in operations on the Susangerd front and in a valiant attack against the positions of the Iraqi mercenaries inflicted some damage on them. No accurate figures are available concerning enemy casualties and damage received in these operations.

Last night the city of Susangerd again came under the fire of the enemy's heavy weapons. As a result of the artillery fire of Saddam's mercenaries a few residential homes as well as the city hospital sustained damages and some people were injured. Some damage was also inflicted on the patients in the hospital.

Yesterday, seven helicopters of the Airborne Division and two Phantoms of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran bravely attacked the enemy positions in the western region of Susangerd and the Karkheh-Kur River and inflicted heavy losses and damage on Saddam's mercenaries.

Also last night, as a result of the artillery fire of our brave armed forces, more than 60 of the mercenaries were killed in an area west of Susangerd.

#### Power Department Employees Summoned

CF211309 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1228 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] The regional power distribution center has announced that all employees of the Susangerd power department should report to the operations department of the regional power distribution center in Ahvaz, behind the [name indistinct] square, on Saturday, 22 November. Failure to do so will be considered as absence [from duty].

AHVAZ BOMBED, SHELLED; FIGHTING CONTINUES 19-21 NOV

19 Nov Report

LD191138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] According to a PARS correspondent, in their battle against the infidels yesterday the Islamic Republic's combatants destroyed one 75 mm machinegun and one mortar on the Ahvaz front; they also killed three Iraqi invaders. In this battle two of our own personnel were killed and four wounded. The same report says that 2 days ago, in a battle between the Islamic defenders and the forces of the infidels around Hamid Post, located along the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr axis, the Islamic revolution fighters destroyed two tank-transport trailers, one artillery piece and one vehicle.

Air Raids

GF191333 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1325 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] This is Ahvaz, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dear listeners: Please pay attention. The siren you are about to hear is the red alert. There is imminent danger of an air raid. [sound of siren]

[Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian repeats this message at 1730 and 1758 GMT on 19 November and at 1228 GMT on 20 November]

Revolution Court Formed

GF201559 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The citizens of Ramhormoz and its environs are hereby informed that a special wartime court has been formed. The shar' magistrate for the court is Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Mortazavi, Ayatollah Khalkhali's representative. The court is located at the Ramhormoz Physical Education Department and has been set up due to the present sensitive situation and the activities of counterrevolutionaries and the enemy's fifth column. It will stop any prostitution and moral deviation and deal with individuals who do not comply with wartime regulations. The faithful Muslim citizens of Ramhormoz should refer to this court if they have any complaints involving these matters.

Ahvaz Shelled; MiG Destroyed

LD211220 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1040 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] The Central News Bureau's correspondent in Ahvaz reported at 1140 today: From 2230 last night up to the time that this report is being communicated, the city of Ahvaz has come under irregular but intense enemy artillery fire.

The PARS correspondent in Ahvaz reported at 1015 today: Following the opening of artillery fire by the Iraqi mercenaries on the residential districts in this city, which resulted in damage, our heroes retaliated by opening artillery fire on the positions of the aggressive enemy.

In another dispatch sent at 1240 today, the PARS correspondent announced: On the Ahvaz front this morning the heroes of the Airborne Division flew over the positions of Saddam's infidels and in a brave attack inflicted heavy materiel losses and casualties on the enemy.

According to this dispatch, during these operations the Airborne Division's heroes, apart from killing 60 of Saddam's mercenaries and wounding 2, succeeded in destroying 11 cannons, 3 tanks and 2 ammunition dumps belonging to the aggressive enemy.

The Central News Bureau's correspondent, quoting responsible officials from the news staff of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Khuzestan, has announced: Yesterday, an aggressive Iraqi MiG launched a cowardly attack on Hamidiyeh Airfield and damaged a transport aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran which had landed on that airfield in order to unload its cargo. The MiG then vanished. Immediately after this aggressive action, a fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran took to the air, chased the aggressive aircraft, destroyed it over Iraqi territory, and then returned safely to base.

During yesterday's battles on the Ahvaz and Susangerd fronts 4 of our heroes were martyred and another 49 were wounded.

REPORTAGE ON ABADAN, KHUNINSHAHR FRONT 19-21 NOV

#### Bahamanshir River Battle

LD191152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch from the Abadan front at 1210 today, the Islamic Republic combatants, supported by artillery fire, captured more of the Ba'thists' strongholds on the northeastern banks of the Bahamanshir River and forced the enemy to retreat by inflicting heavy blows and casualties on the enemy.

Meanwhile, according to an informed military source on the frontline who spoke to PARS this morning, the Iraqi mercenaries have relinquished their positions on the northeastern banks of the Bahamanshir River and have retreated to the western part of the river. The same report says last night the artillery battle continued between the Islamic defenders and the forces of the infidels. Having suffered casualties, the mercenaries moved their positions to the Abadan-Mahshahr road. During last night's battle on this front, three Islamic fighters gave their lives for the revolution and two others were wounded. Latest reports say sporadic fighting continues today on the various fronts in Abadan.

#### Artillery Duels

LD191942 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] In Khuninshahr the allies of the Islamic revolution of Iran, made up of the army, the guards corps, the gendarmerie and the armed remnants of this heroic city, continue their partisan operations against the Ba'thist mercenaries in this city. One of the combatant brothers who recently returned from the front told a Central News Bureau correspondent: The military situation in the country's war areas is excellent and hopeful. When Susangerd was cleansed of the presence of the Ba'thist mercenaries the morale of all the combatants soared and the enemies of our Islamic revolution, because of their fear and weakness resulting from repeated defeats, are now engaged in their last desperate efforts.

On the other hand, according to a PARS correspondent's dispatch from Abadan, clashes also continued today between the combatants of Islam and the Iraqi mercenaries on the Abadan fronts and the two sides subjected each other to their artillery fire. In these clashes one of the devotees of Islam was martyred and another four were wounded. The PARS correspondent reported that the Iraqi mercenaries this afternoon too subjected Abadan's residential areas to their long-range artillery fire, martyring three innocent citizens and damaging a number of houses. At the time this report was sent, at 1817, an exchange of artillery fire was continuing between the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the duped Iraqi mercenaries on the Abadan fronts.

Following a retreat by the Iraqi mercenaries northeast of Bahmanshir River to the western bank of this river the mercenaries, because of their intensive mortar and five-five artillery fire, are advancing along the Abadan-Ahvaz highway axis.

#### Iraqi Artillery Bombardment

LD191902 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1646 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report from Abadan, the city once again today marked the epic of Imam Hoseyn's martyrdom. True combatant followers of Imam Hoseyn--peace be upon him--held marches and mourning ceremonies to commemorate the arch-martyr. During these activities Abadan was subjected to a Ba'thist mercenary artillery attack.

The situation on the Abadan fronts, too, was excellent, and the Ba'thist mercenaries were pushed back up to 3 kilometers in the northeast of Bahmanshir and in station No 7 [as heard]. Thanks to the coordination of the artillery of the combatant forces defending the revolution, Saddam's dupes fled in terror from their bunkers and are now retreating.

#### More on Shelling

LD200756 Tehran Domestic Service in in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] A PARS correspondent reported that following the disgraceful defeat of the Iraqi mercenaries on the northeastern part of the Bahmanshir River and after their withdrawal from the fringes of Abadan to the Ahvaz road, these mercenaries opened fire from several different positions on civilian areas of Abadan last night, using long-range artillery. This way they were trying to make up for their disgraceful escape by sacrificing Abadan's women and children, but, despite the savage bombardment of the Ba'thist infidels, the inhabitants of Abadan organized the ceremonies of "The Night of the Strangers" ["Sham-e Ghariban" ceremonies are held on the night of "Ashura"] and revived the memory of the sunset of 'Ashura.

This report also indicates that the commando-style battle in Khuninshahr continues with the supporters of blasphemy. The combatants of Islam penetrate deep inside the aggressive enemy's positions and by seizing every opportunity they deal fatal blows at the aggressive enemy.

#### Iranian Air Attacks

LD201146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Excerpt] A PARS correspondent, reporting from the frontline in Abadan at 1200, said that as a result of continuous Iranian artillery fire the northeastern bank of the Bahmanshir River has been cleansed of the aggressive infidels.

The correspondent also said that two Phantom jets and one helicopter of the Iranian Air Force destroyed the trenches and positions of the enemies of the Islamic revolution in that area. Following this air attack, the combatants of Islam took over these positions and trenches, forcing the Iraqi mercenaries to retreat.

Iranian artillery is also continuing to pound the positions of the aggressive enemy on the fringes of the Abadan-Ahvaz and Abadan-Mahshahr roads.

## Iraqi Helicopter Raid

LD201852 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] According to PARS, combatants of Islam comprising personnel of the ground forces, guards, the brave tribesmen of Khuzestan and other fighting forces, yesterday opened artillery fire on an enemy position on the road between Abadan and Ahvaz, while the defenders of the city downed an enemy helicopter. According to the same report, this afternoon, as a result of fire by the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, one tank of the mercenary enemy was destroyed and its crew killed. This afternoon, three helicopters belonging to the Iraqi mercenaries flew over the positions of the Islamic fighters on one of the Abadan fronts. One of the helicopters was downed by the fire of the antiaircraft battery of the defenders of Islam and the other two were forced to flee. The report of the PARS correspondent from the Abadan front says that in today's fighting only one of our combatants was injured. According to the same report, this afternoon, sporadic firing took place between the brave fighters of Iran and the Ba'athist infidels. The long-range artillery of the Iraqi aggressors continued to shell the residential areas in Abadan.

Tehran: Abadan 'Relatively Calm'

LD210716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0443 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] According to a PARS report dispatched at 2230 from Abadan, last night the situation on the fronts in this city was relatively calm. After the disgraceful defeat of the Iraqi mercenaries on the northwestern front and their flight, the mercenaries' artillery fire has decreased. The combatants of Islam on the Abadan fronts also maintained their fire superiority and dealt some blows to Saddam's mercenaries on the axis of the Abadan-Mahshahr and Abadan-Ahvaz roads.

According to a report by the PARS correspondent, the Iraqi mercenaries were in an offensive position on the Abadan battlefronts and as a result of the artillery fire of the combatants of Islam, the Iraqi mercenaries left their positions one after another and retreated. At the same time the Iraqi mercenaries, contrary to humanitarian principles, opened fire on an ambulance belonging to relief forces on the banks of the Bahmanshir River in Abadan and destroyed it, but the occupants received no injuries.

The PARS correspondent also reported: The combatants of Islam positioned in the eastern section of Khuninshahr with their guerrilla attacks deep inside the enemy positions in this city dealt heavy blows to the aggressive mercenaries. Meanwhile, the Iraqi mercenaries, in retaliation for their disgraceful defeat, are still shelling the residential areas of Abadan from inside the Iraqi territory with their long-range artillery. A spokesman for the Abadan relief forces last night in a meeting with PARS announced: In the past 24 hours, as a result of the shelling of Abadan by the enemy five-five mortars, one has been martyred and 25 others wounded.

## Night Fighting

LD211242 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] The PARS correspondent in Abadan has reported: At dawn today the heroes defending Islam, made up of tribesmen and revolution guards, launched a bold surprise attack at the heart of enemy positions on the edge of the village of Fayyaziye and destroyed two of Saddam's mercenary tanks and killed a number of aggressors. During their epic assault these heroes of Islam destroyed two multipersonnel bunkers of the Iraqi aggressors and pushed back the mercenaries several kilometers from their original positions along the Abadan-Ahvaz highway. After this heroic surprise night attack all the combatants, shouting "God is the greatest," returned safely to base.

According to a PARS dispatch, the defenders of the Islamic revolution throughout last night and this morning maintained firepower superiority, and by utilizing our artillery fire forced Saddam's mercenaries to beat a retreat.

Another PARS dispatch says that in the eastern sector of Khuninshahr our combatants are launching guerrilla attacks at the heart of enemy positions in the city's western sector and are dealing blows at Saddam's mercenaries.

#### REPORTAGE ON FIGHTING IN WESTERN REGION

##### Successes in Gilan-e Gharb

LD191452 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] According to a PARS report from battlefronts in Gilan-e Gharb, the morale and preparedness of our brave forces is normal. In recent days, not only have we been able to stand firm facing the enemy, but we have even pushed the enemy back from many of its former positions and at the moment the Ba'thist forces have retreated more than 10 km from Gilan-e Gharb.

##### Iraqi Artillery Position Destroyed

LD191432 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] The PARS correspondent in Kermanshah, quoting the commander of operations in the Gilan-e Gharb region, reported: Yesterday, the valiant Islamic fighters, after identifying the enemy artillery positions, destroyed these positions and destroyed one cannon and one mortar launcher and killed the artillery crew. This position of enemy artillery had been stationed 2 days ago near Gilan-e Gharb and, by firing at the city, aimed to weaken the morale of the people; but the people of Gilan-e Gharb, who with complete steadfastness had pushed back the Ba'thist forces, not only were not frightened by this attack but, on the contrary, they added to their battle readiness in order to confront and fight against the enemy.

According to this report, in the operations which were carried out in order to destroy the enemy artillery position one of our vehicles was hit by enemy fire, and one of the soldier brothers was martyred.

##### Ilam Official on Iraqi Losses

LD191514 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1105 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] PARS, quoting the official in the news section of the guards corps in Ilam, has reported: In the past 2 days the defenders of the Islamic revolution, after identifying the position of tanks of the Iraqi mercenary forces, smashed the enemy position with heavy weapons' fire. According to this report, after hours of intense fighting the enemy mercenaries were defeated and stopped their confrontation.

During this battle many Iraqi mercenaries were killed and a large number of enemy tanks were completely destroyed. In these operations the Iranian forces did not suffer any casualties.

##### Iraqi Losses in Mehran

LD202028 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] According to the latest dispatches received from the war front in the west of the country, the combatants of Islam in the region of Mehran inflicted fatal blows on the invading mercenaries and forced the enemy to retreat by 4 km.

These combatants also recaptured one of the strategic heights in the region.

According to the same report, the combatants of the army of Islam in their attacks launched today killed more than 100 Iraqi mercenaries and destroyed 40 Iraqi tanks.

#### Iraqi Casualties

LD191804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1645 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] PARS, quoting the operational command of Ilam's Islamic revolution guards, who are deployed in the border region, reports:

As of 1330 Islam's combatant forces had advanced several kilometers up the hills in the (Kan-e Sakht) area and inflicted heavy casualties on the infidel enemy.

The same report says that during these operations several of our combatant brothers who were wounded were receiving treatment in field hospitals.

#### 21 Nov Report on Fighting

LD210655 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0439 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] Fighting with the infidel Saddam regime's mercenaries was still continuing on the western fronts last night.

According to a report by the PARS coorespondent, fighting is still continuing on the fronts of Sumar, Gilan-e Gharb, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Sarab-e Garm, (Kan-e Sakht), and Shur-e Shirin. The combative forces of the Islamic Republic, including the military forces, the guards, gendarmerie, the mobilized tribes, and local people are still doggedly fighting with the forces of blasphemy. According to the same report, the combatants of the Islamic Republic are continuing their battle against the Ba'th forces with utmost bravery. They have crushed some enemy positions. The number of mercenaries who up to 2320 last night were transfered from this front to the regional hospitals, has been reported as 42. On the other hand, the enemy's casualty toll in the past 72 hours has been put at more than 586. On this front, the enemy, in addition to losing strategic positions, as a result of brave and decisive attacks by the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran, lost a large amount of its weapons, ammunition, and equipment. The combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran with their battle created new epics.

A report by the PARS correspondent quotes a clergyman who last night returned from the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front to Kermanshah as saying that several lookouts from the Iraqi Ba'thist forces have been killed in guerrilla operations by the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran. With the killing of these Iraqi lookouts, heavy blows have been dealt to the mercenary enemy.

The PARS correspondent in a meeting with a reliable source from the Ahvaz division has been informed: Yesterday the forces defending the Islamic Republic of Iran penetrated deep inside the region invaded by the mercenary enemy and through the effective use of explosions and arson, inflicted a great deal of damage on the Ba'thist mercenaries. According to this same report, yesterday in the Ahvaz region, the situation on the fronts was generally not calm. At 1520 two aggressive enemy helicopters which intended to attack Ahvaz were forced to flee by the antiaircraft batteries of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Also, according to a report by a responsible official in Ahvaz, yesterday the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran gained more victories on the Susangerd-Dahlavieh axis. In yesterday's progress, some of Saddam's deceived mercenaries were killed and some of the enemy tanks were destroyed by the soldiers of the Islamic revolution. This report states that the arrested Iraqi personnel are mainly youngsters or elderly and this shows that treacherous Saddam's army is being completely routed and annihilated; therefore, he uses youngsters and the elderly for his foul purposes. This report also states that yesterday the residential area of Susangerd came under the Iraqi mercenaries' artillery fire and a number of innocent people were martyred. There is no accurate report about the exact number of the martyred and the wounded.

#### Kermanshah Combatant on Battle

LD201842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] A combatant, who is also the representative of the political-ideological office of one of the units of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was interviewed in Kermanshah at noon today on his return from the front in the war with colonialism. He said: The combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with selflessness, courage and much sacrifice, gained a notable victory and inflicted heavy damage and casualties on the infidel mercenaries during a 72-hour battle with the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries in this [presumably Kermanshah] region.

He continued: In a legend-making battle, the fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran destroyed two strategically situated battery emplacements, but while taking over these emplacements used the battery to open fire on the Ba'thist forces. In this operation several of our fighters were martyred. He added: In the Sumar region the combatants of Islam killed more than 150 enemy personnel in hand-to-hand fighting, forced them to retreat and captured a quantity of arms and ammunition.

According to a PARS report on the fighting yesterday and today on the Gilan-e Gharb front, the mobilized tribesmen of Eslamabad fought side by side with the fighting forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and prevented three Iraqi tank from reaching a strategic point and inflicted some casualties on the enemy. In this battle three of the mobilized tribesmen of Eslamabad were injured.

#### 21 Nov Roundup

LD211130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 80

[Text] Following 48 hours of destiny-making battle by our heroic forces in the Gilan-e Gharb region, making use of artillery and mortar fire and inflicting heavy blows, the Ba'thist mercenaries were forced to retreat. Also at 0500 today PARS, quoting the Kermanshah gednarmerie, reported: Up to this moment the Islamic heroes are continuing to fight in the strategic regions of Shur-e Shirin and Kan-e Zur against the mercenaries of Saddam. On this front our forces have inflicted heavy casualties and considerable damage upon the aggressive enemy forces and have destroyed many enemy positions and fortifications.

Another report, transmitted by PARS at 0804 today, says: The defenders of the Islamic revolution, continuing their recent battles in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin fronts, today continued their battle against the Ba'thist infidels. The enemy-crushing fire of our artillery smashed the positions and fortifications of Saddam's forces.

Another report received from PARS at 0910 today indicates that the strategic region of Kur-e Mush has been cleansed of the filthy existence of Saddam's elements.

According to the latest report, at 1040 today, an Iraqi MiG violated the airspace of Eslamabad but was forced to fly away by the antiaircraft battery of our heroic forces.

The correspondents of PARS and the Central News Bureau report that yesterday our forces on Ilam front brought down on violating Iraqi MiG. The pilot of this plane was killed, and when the plane crashed two local inhabitants were killed and two other persons were wounded.

#### BUSHEHR RADIO WARNS CITIZENS OF RED ALERT 19 NOV

GF191645 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1636 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] [sound of siren] This is Bushehr, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The siren you have just heard is the red alert siren. Please comply with all red alert instructions. If you find any wounded persons in any location, please do not gather around them. Instead, report the matter to the nearest emergency center. [sound of siren]

#### Alert Lifted

GF191656 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1650 GMT 19 Nov 80

[Text] [sound of siren] Dear listeners: You hear our voice from Bushehr radio. The siren you have just heard announces the white condition. This means the danger of an air raid is over.

#### Reminder of Blackout Regulations

GF201530 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1502 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] [sound of siren] Dear listeners: The announcement of the red alert in Bushehr makes it necessary that we observe the blackout regulations so that, God forbid, we do not unconsciously aid and abet the enemy. Even a small light that has no significance to us can help the U.S. mercenaries. [sound of siren]

#### NVOI COMMENTS ON U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE, LIBERALS, 'ASHURA

#### 17 Nov Commentaries

TA172127 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 17 November carried two commentaries:

The first commentary was entitled "Hasty Decisions Are to the Detriment of the Revolution and Our Homeland." It said: The condition our liberated homeland needs more than anything else is unity of speech and action. Unfortunately, from time to time some elements willingly or unwillingly resort to actions that are contrary to the guidance of the imam and to the interests of the revolution and our Islamic Republic. During this war, which was imposed on our people and on the Muslim people of Iraq by the imperialists and their allies, all the people of our society, regardless of any religious or ideological differences, have a common duty. This duty is national, patriotic and at the same time religious. It consists of the defense of territorial integrity, sovereignty and the revolutionary gains, as well as the defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is the duty of every Iranian and no person can be prevented from performing this national duty under the excuse of his having this or that political opinion.

Now that world-devouring U.S. imperialism and its hirelings have imposed this war on our nation, respect for this national right is very important. "From the beginning of the imperialist world-devouring U.S. plots and the military clashes, we were witnesses to the reality that all the forces, parties and true leftist revolutionary organizations have declared their readiness to safeguard the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran, have taken sincere and decessive steps in this connection and have given martyrs." From the very beginning, however, it has been observed that a lie based on prejudice and some people under the influence of the (?slanders) of enemies of the Iranian revolution have made the true leftist forces targets of accusations. We refer to the unrealistic and unjust conduct and attitude of some politicians and authorities regarding the true leftist revolutionary forces, not the pseudo-leftist groups. Many times after the revolution we witnessed the bitter reality that pseudo-leftist groups, under the appellation of Maoism or Trotskyism, by bringing forth demagogical slogans have in practice caused discord among revolutionary forces. We must say that unfortunately for these pseudo-leftist groups who are backed by Washington and Beijing, not only has no obstacle existed, but some of the authorities use them for attacking and spreading rumors against the true leftist revolutionary forces. Such hasty decisions are to the detriment of our Islamic Republic.

The second commentary was entitled "The Oil Kings and the Imposed War on Our Country." It said: The war between our country and Iraq, even according to the admission of the Americans, is a favorable occasion for their aggression in the Persian Gulf area and establishing their control over the oil riches of this region. The U.S. governing officials who are backed by the big oil monopolies do not hide the fact that the oil of the Near East is the determining factor of U.S. political activities in the Persian Gulf region. With the creation of OPEC, a new phase came about in the struggles of nations possessing oil against the oil cartel. This antimonopolistic union in many occasions obliged the oil monopolies to retreat. As we are aware, during the past years the price of the OPEC oil has increased four times; the reason was the unprecedented cost of Western goods and the inflation of the dollar. All the OPEC measures were met by the resistance of the oil cartel since these decisions put the interests of the international oil cartel under attack. The Americans, first from a political point of view and then by declaring the Persian Gulf region an alleged U.S. vital zone from a military point of view, brought the OPEC countries under pressure.

First the Americans used the hostage issue as a pretext and now they have a new excuse: The imposed war on our country that allegedly threatens the export of oil through the Strait of Hormuz. The United States, by establishing the plan for a military alliance in the region, has endangered the cause of peace in Asia. In connection with this new U.S. adventurism the question arises: Have the big oil exporting countries in the Persian Gulf such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates declared an interruption in their oil exports to the Western countries? If the Americans want to secure the passage of oil through the Strait of Hormuz, why do they not want to pay attention to Iran's statement saying that it will guarantee the free passage of tankers through the Strait of Hormuz. Other countries of the region have declared the same thing, while saying that they are against any sort of U.S. intervention in the affairs of this region, but despite all this the United States is dispatching troops and planes to the region. Some countries in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf do not want to see the dangers of these U.S. measures. Some, like Saudi Arabia, even aid the United States in this connection. The progressive nations and circles of the Persian Gulf countries declare their decessive opposition to U.S. military interventions in the affairs of Persian Gulf countries and to the taking of advantage of the military conflict between our country and Iraq for appropriating the oil riches of the region.

## 18 Nov Commentaries

TA182034 [Editorial report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 18 November carried two commentaries.

The first commentary concerned Hoseyn's Tasu'a: The day of Hoseyn's Tasu'a [9th of Muharram, the day before the martyrdom of Imam Hoseyn] is not only the day of commemoration of the martyrs' commander--Hoseyn ibn 'Ali--but at the same time, the day of our nation renewing the pledge with all the martyrs of freedom who lost their lives for the establishment of a just society free from corruption, oppression and exploitation. During the Tasu'a day march, the combatant people of our homeland have once again proved their loyalty to Hoseyn's path which is a path of freedom and struggle against the gods of oppression, and the important thing for our nation is to be inspired by these principles.

During the days of the prophet, a group of opportunists and power-seekers resorted to hatching plots against the true revolutionary Islam and paying attention to this reality is essential because during our days too, we are witnesses of the reality that some under the protection of Islam act contrary to the true revolutionary Islam and put their personal and group interests above those of the people.

We can boldly say that the jihad of 'Ali and Hoseyn against the (?provocators) of the true revolutionary Islam was not over prayers and turbans but a struggle of justice against falsity, freedom against slavery, justice against oppression and liberty against keeping silent. All of 'Ali Hoseyn ibn 'Ali's philosophy and jihad were based on these principles.

The second commentary was entitled "We must be vigilant vis-a-vis the plots of political opportunists." It said: Sadeq Qotbzadeh, after his release from prison, which according to observers is a victory by the supporters of the line of rapprochement with the West, especially with U.S. imperialism, has started extensive activity for the realization of the aims of the liberals and pro-Westerners. It is said that Qotbzadeh considered the sensitive (?position) of the bazaar, especially under the actually sensitive conditions, and was determined to deliver a speech in the bazaar of Tehran to a gathering of his supporters--or let us put it more precisely, supporters of the liberals. To create such a gathering it was announced that allegedly Mr Qotbzadeh intended to expose the imam's orders to those present, but Qotbzadeh was not able to deliver his speech because those present under different excuses and slogans transformed this gathering into a reunion contrary to the imam's path and contrary to the Islamic Republic. We are not exactly informed as to which of the imam's orders Mr Qotbzadeh intended to expose to those present at this gathering but the fact that Qotbzadeh has renewed his discord, sowing and antirevolutionary activities cannot be tolerated or disregarded. These people do not even deserve to be mentioned. The important thing for the Iranian nation is that the Qotbzadehs, Bazargans or Amir Entezams are at the head of a counter-revolutionary current for trampling on the revolutionary gains and (?establishing) U.S. imperialism in our country.

Another cause of concern for the Iranian people is the fact that while in our country the U.S. masked elements and lovers of establishing friendly relations with the great Satan are freely continuing their antirevolutionary activities while people affiliated with true revolutionary parties, groups and organizations are prosecuted for groundless excuses. The gathering at the bazaar of Tehran a few days ago and the commotion started by those present against the gains of the revolutions, is [word indistinct] of the liberal-bourgeoisie current supporter of the West and world-devouring America and of returning the situation to the old days. The people of our homeland are deeply aware of state matters and know the aim of the liberal-bourgeoisie wing.

## 19 Nov Commentaries

TA191934 [Editorial report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 19 November carried two commentaries:

The first commentary dealt with the day of 'ashura'. The second was entitled "Put an end to the dangerous game with the destiny of the revolution." It said: During the mourning days' demonstrations and marches, our homeland's people have once again declared their readiness to consolidate unity of word and action. Millions of workers, farmers, peasants, merchants and students are well aware that preservation of the revolution's gains and their continuity and the maintenance of the existence of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran are only possible through the unity of word and action of the entire nation.

In this connection it is important to point out that this unity of word and action should be carried out at all levels, for if revolutionary unity and alliance does not prevail in the upper levels of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and among the responsible officials of the country and its leaders, one cannot talk about unity of word and action in the wider sense.

Division and discord among the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran strikes the greatest blow at the unity of word and action of the entire nation, and are not without effect in weakening and dividing its ranks. Disunity among the upper ranks of the country's responsible officials, particularly under the present conditions, is among the problems which have aroused the people's anxiety and discouragement. In order to be saved from the current critical condition, in order to realize victory in the imposed war and to safeguard and continue the revolution's gains, our homeland is in need of unity of word and action of the entire nation, from the president and the prime minister to the worker, farmer, the merchant and all those who believe in the revolution.

Unfortunately, however, besides not paying attention to the necessity of preserving unity among themselves, the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran often strike the greatest blow to the unity of word and action of the Iranian people by their harmful monopoly-seeking action. For example, we all know that in order to secure the revolution's victory all the true forces of the revolution and all opponents of the despotic regime and the despised monarchical system endured numerous difficulties, hardships and misfortunes and gave innumerable sacrifices in the struggle against Mohammad Reza's corrupt regime.

Currently, in the course of this imposed war on our homeland, it is again the true revolutionary forces, including members of the Tudeh, Mojahedin and the Cherihs who hand in hand with their guard and soldier brothers are defending the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran with self-sacrifice. As we are aware, however, these true forces of the revolution have always been the target of attacks by the opportunists, liberals and the desirers of the return of U.S. imperialism on the one hand, and by monopoly-seeking leaders on the other. So much so that they are even depriving them from carrying out the greatest duty of every human being, that of defending the homeland's territory.

Deep differences among responsible officials of the Islamic system on the one hand, and the opposition of the majority of government officials with the true forces of the revolution and all followers of the imam's popular and anti-imperialist policy on the other, are undeniable facts that pain the heart of every patriotic Iranian. Those who, without paying attention to the destiny of the revolution and to all the blood spilled on this path, are solely striving to gain power for themselves, should recall the remarks of the imam of the nation who rightly said: These too are the agents of U.S. imperialism and assist the United States, except that they themselves are not aware of it.

## 20 Nov Commentaries

TA201923 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 20 November carried two commentaries.

The first commentary, entitled "The Adventures of U.S. Imperialism Can Be Foiled With Unity of the True Revolutionary Forces," stated that, as has been reported, the maneuvers of units of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, in which 1,400 military personnel are participating, have started in Egypt's desert regions. It is obvious that the aim of these maneuvers, above all, is the preparation of conspiracy and aggression against our homeland. As you are observing, U.S. imperialism is continuing preparations for aggressions in our region, especially when certain colleagues exist in this region, such as the traitor As-Sadat, who is providing all facilities in Egyptian territory to the American warmongers for war preparations.

Under such conditions the issue of necessity of unity of the true revolutionary forces acquires special importance. It is only the unity of the masses, unity and alliance of the true forces of the revolution that can preserve the freedom and independence of the homeland and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran against imperialist plots. In this connection the recent stepping up of attacks on the true revolutionary forces has rightly aroused the grave concern of the people. Any attack on the true revolutionary forces, under the current sensitive and critical moments for our country, will ultimately result in weakening the unity of the anti-imperialist front against the military adventures of U.S. imperialism and the plots of its masked and unmasked agents within and abroad. Assaulting and pressuring the true revolutionary forces, under the current critical conditions, can only be harmful to our homeland and beneficial to the counterrevolution.

The second commentary was entitled: "U.S. Adventures in the Persian Gulf Have Rightly Aroused the Concern of OPEC Countries." It stated that Near East oil is the principle goal of U.S. political and military activities in the Persian Gulf. U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf is a policy based on establishing military pacts, on adventurist activities and on drawing its military allies in NATO and its puppets in the Near East, such as As-Sadat and Qabus, into its military orbit. In implementing its military and political policy, only one issue is important for the United States, and that is its interests and defense of the plundering interests of U.S. monopolies.

In this connection, it is appropriate to point out that Saudi Arabia has increased its oil production to 15 million barrels per day under U.S. pressure, thus compensating the shortage of oil exported to the West due to military clashes between our country and Iraq. We are also aware that the Saudi Arabian regime has consented to U.S. use of Saudi territory to deploy 40 warplanes and new Hawk missiles.

U.S. military adventures in the Persian Gulf region have rightly aroused the concern of OPEC member countries. In fact, this dangerous policy is not only posing threats to the littoral states of the Persian Gulf, but also to the OPEC countries in general, and its aim is the creation of division and discord in the OPEC front. However, OPEC countries are not retreating in the face of the increasing pressure of the United States and the oil cartel.

## NEPAL

RISING NEPAL: RELATIONS WITH U.S. WILL GROW UNDER REAGAN

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[Editorial: "Reagan's Victory"]

[Text] Ronald Reagan, the Republican contender in the U.S. presidential electoral sweepstakes, has confounded the world by winning what had been termed as a landslide victory over the incumbent President, Jimmy Carter. Though the fact of his electoral success is not perhaps as surprising as the handsome margin in Electoral College votes that he garnered over his political rival--piling well over 400 of the 538 electoral-votes--this has been matched by President-elect Reagan's victory breaking a number of electoral records. Thus, while his smashing victory over President Carter has created serious doubts about the art--or is it science?--of public opinion polling that is so dear to the American people, it has been rendered all the more remarkable in that he is the first Republican to deny a Democratic president re-election since 1888. Significantly, too, his victory has ended the Democratic Party's more than quarter century control of the Senate which has an important role in the foreign policy arena.

Inevitably, Mr Reagan's win will trigger serious analysis globally as to the possible reasons for his victory over an incumbent president and equally set a great number of people assessing what the victory could mean in terms of the policies likely to be implemented by the Reagan administration after January 20th. But while a clearer picture about what this significant development means should emerge by and by, there would seem to be a general consensus that Mr Reagan's political achievement has been greatly conditioned by the American people's feeling that in the past four years the United States has not exactly covered itself with glory in the important foreign affairs field. Indeed, though it will be naive to suppose that it is only foreign policy perceptions that has been responsible for this landmark political development of the U.S. electoral scene--for issues like high inflation, unemployment and the energy tangle have probably also contributed greatly to the eventual result--it will probably not be a wrong guess that the Reagan administration's foreign policy will be "stronger" than it has appeared to be in the past.

Be that as it may, what is an interesting sidelight for the Nepalese people who have only months ago undergone a national referendum is the fact that Mr Reagan's victory has been hailed as a sweeping one, although in terms of popular votes his margin of victory over President Carter is just about 10 percent, or not very far off from the margin of victory of the Panchayat option over the multiparty one in our own case. In overall percentage terms, Mr Reagan's 51 percent win is less than that secured by the Panchayat option with 55 percent. Furthermore, while it is certainly to Mr Reagan's credit that he has done well practically all over the country, this again is remarkably reminiscent of the fact that in our referendum the Panchayat option too won not only in every zone of the kingdom but in nearly three fourths of the seventy five districts of the country. This apart, the Nepalese people join his majesty the king in congratulating Mr Reagan on his election to the high office of the President of the United States and are confident that under the Reagan administration the friendly relations existing between the two countries will continue to develop even further.